

Victory Sports Series

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Wrestling

1976 YEARBOOK #17

**WHAT
TURNED
ANDRE
THE GIANT
INTO
ANDRE
THE
KILLER?**



OX
BAKER



BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN



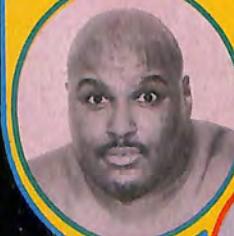
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NUNCHAKU KARATE'S DEADLIEST FIGHTING STICKS!

Protect Yourself and your loved ones' STOP ANY ATTACKER with frightening devastating Nunchaku Sticks Swings Strikes Catches Pinches Choking and other wipe-out techniques all yours to learn in no time at all! The application of the Nunchaku to be effective requires a mere flick of the wrist quickly a firm grip and a sense of determination You will be able to strike an opponent and whip out the chaku (one stick) quickly and effortlessly before your attacker can offer any defense. The greatest advantage of the Nunchakus over any other form of self-defense like Karate or Kung Fu is that this weapon is an extension of your hands and legs. With one swing the Nunchaku will double in size therefore shortening the distance between you and your opponent. Imagine being able to strike crush jab or thrust at your enemy without having to fear his mightiest kick or punch! Your attacker will not be prepared and will not be warned of the unusually long striking range of your Nunchakus Also the sticks by themselves look relatively harmless This being the case you have the great advantage of surprise which will allow you to handle any threatening situation that may occur.

I'll Make
YOU AN EXPERT IN NUNCHAKU-Karate's DEADLIEST FIGHTING STICKS...AN ORIENTAL ART OF KOBUJITSU-WEAPONS FIGHTING THAT IS APPLIED without directly using your limbs or body.

This Oriental Art of Kobujitsu—weapon fighting that is applied with minimum use of your limbs or body—enables YOU to disable an attacker from several feet away BEFORE he can bat an eyelash! Fast as lightning! The Okinawan method of offensive defense, 470 years old, has been preserved within the ancient Tokugawa Era. UNTIL RECENTLY ONLY THIRD DEGREE BLACK BELTS WERE PERMITTED TO LEARN THIS ANCIENT KOBUJITSU WEAPON . . . TAUGHT IN STRICT SECRECY. Now these devastating methods requiring NO PHYSICAL STRENGTH, NO BODILY CONTACT and a MINIMUM PHYSICAL EXERTION, NO APPLICATION OF YOUR HANDS OR FEET—are revealed to YOU regardless of your past experience or your lack of experience in the Martial Arts, by Dr. Andrew S. Linick, Nunchaku Master, who has broken away from the Oriental tradition of "secrecy" to teach YOU AT HIS OWN RISK!

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- Deadly Defenses
- Swings
- Blocks & Counters
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- Defense Against Knife
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- Pinching Techniques

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Course only - \$9.98 plus .50¢ postage.

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Please send me copy(s) of Andrew S. Linick's New Course on NUNCHAKU-Karate's Oriental Art of Self-Defense, at \$9.98 each, plus .50¢ postage.** I understand I may read this Master's text for 30 days and, if not completely satisfied, return it for a prompt refund — no questions asked!

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FAT-BURNING SYSTEM - FOR THE BODY

POSITIVE PROOF THIS SYSTEM REALLY WORKS... AND FAST!!

My name is Brad Mitchell. For many years I have helped thousands of people lose weight. And I believe I can help you!

I realize that today, there are so many weight loss products and programs on the market, that you are probably thoroughly confused as to which one is truly effective.

Everyone, both young and old is striving for that slim, sleek, youthful and energetic figure. The problem is how to achieve such a shape without damage to your health and at the same time keep your energy level high in order to cope with the tensions and rapid pace of today's world.

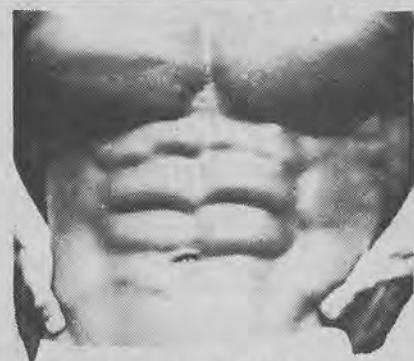
I have developed such a system!

I firmly believe that this Amazing Fat Burning System is the most effective system ever. I should know, just take a look at my before and after pictures. I lost 18 pounds of ugly fat, in only 15 days.

And, believe it or not, I kept my stomach full of food (no hunger pains).

And, my wife lost 40 pounds in only 30 days!

Since then, I have been continuously researching areas of nutrition, bodybuilding, and diet programs, in order to help thousands achieve that slim attractive shape desired by everyone. In fact everyone I put on this Amazing Fat Burning System, reported that they made fantastic weight losses--fast and easily!



FREE WAIST COURSE!!

Order your Fat-Burning System today and we'll send you FREE our fantastic ABDOMINAL COURSE. This big book will show you how to have a trim, muscular waist in the fastest time possible! Get rid of that pot-belly and have a sexy, trim waist. You'll look and feel like a new man!

IS IT THE WORLDS FASTEST, MOST EFFECTIVE FAT BURNING SYSTEM EVER?

I sincerely think it is! Why? Because many of the principles and methods used are the same as those used by top physique champions to eliminate all excess fat.

In fact, many physique champions reduce their body fat to the extreme, so that the skin becomes almost paper thin. Certainly you don't want to become extremely thin. But, it's nice to know that the Fat Burning System can accomplish



almost any weight reduction you desire. And isn't that what you want?

This system is so unique and effective (because it really works)--so much so, that we have had the system copyrighted with the US Government, so that the secrets cannot be copied and stolen!

MAN OR WOMAN--YOUNG OR NOT SO YOUNG--THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Everyone can use this system, regardless whether you're young or not so young. It doesn't matter whether you're 10 or 100 pounds overweight, or how many times you have tried to get into shape. With this new system you'll lose weight faster than ever before. In fact you'll have more energy, strength and endurance so that you will feel younger and enjoy a fuller more active life.

I HAVE A SUPER EXERCISE FOR YOU! MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JOGGING!

To help you loose that fat even faster, I've developed a program for a Fun exercise that is more effective than jogging (in the same amount of time), yet it can be done in the privacy of your own bedroom. It takes only several minutes, three times a week to perform this unique exercise! This exercise is done by top athletes and even astronauts. You won't believe how fast your energy level will rise (and how fast you'll get back into shape).

THIS AMAZING SYSTEM REQUIRES ONLY A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF YOUR TIME!

This system requires a small amount of your time (and some effort), but the results will be nothing short of miraculous! Our program offers you plenty of food to eat, plus supplements that will also help burn off the excess fat.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE TRIM AND SLIM... AND WITHIN DAYS BEGIN TO SEE A REAL DIFFERENCE

IN YOUR APPEARANCE--THEN THIS SYSTEM IS FOR YOU!

Remember, it doesn't matter how many times you have tried to lose weight, your time has finally come, with the Amazing Fat Burning System!

A healthy slim, trim and energetic figure is our goal--make it yours!

SEE DRAMATIC RESULTS IN JUST DAYS... OR RETURN EVERYTHING FOR A FULL REFUND!

You have nothing to loose except fat. Try the Amazing Fat Burning System for a couple of weeks--if you don't feel that the results are fantastic in every way, you can return the system to us, and you'll get a full refund. Just like that! No questions asked.

Give it a try today.

Brad Mitchell
27313 Plymouth Rd., Dept VI-1
Detroit, Michigan 48239

Okay, Brad, I accept your offer! But I've got to feel that the Amazing Fat Burning System is the greatest and that the results will be nothing short of miraculous. Otherwise I'll send everything back for a full refund! I enclose \$9.95. (cash, check or money order)

Please charge Bank Americard
 Master Charge

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date _____ Interbank No. _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

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Wrestling

1976 YEARBOOK # 17

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Sometimes a man sets his ambitions high enough to make skeptics smile. But how often he gets the last laugh! One of LaSalle's more successful graduates writes: "Since enrolling in the LaSalle course, I have progressed from trainee to a management position at three times the income. I now have more confidence in my ability and can better communicate with top management. My future looks even brighter."

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City & State _____ Zip _____

ODD

20

OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO
1—STAN STASIAC
2—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
3—BRUISER BRODIE
4—STAN HANSEN
5—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
6—BOBO BRAZIL
7—IVAN PUTSKI
8—TOR KAMATA
9—BILLY WHITE WOLF
10—VICTOR RIVERA

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE
1—VERNE GAGNE
2—BILLY ROBINSON
3—PETER MAIVIA
4—MAD DOG VACHON
5—BARON VON RASCHKE
6—BOBBY DUNCUM
7—BLACKJACK LANZA
8—GREG GAGNE
9—CHRIS TAYLOR
10—JIM BRUNZELL

MOST POPULAR WRESTLERS

1—MR. WRESTLING II
2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
3—ANDRE THE GIANT
4—DUSTY RHODES
5—MIL MASCARAS
6—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
7—IVAN PUTSKI
8—BILLY ROBINSON
9—WAHOO McDANIEL
10—MIKE GRAHAM

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK
1—JACK BRISCO
2—DUSTY RHODES
3—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
4—MR. WRESTLING II
5—JERRY LAWLER
6—THE SHEIK
7—HARLEY RACE
8—FRITZ VON ERICH
9—ROCKY JOHNSON
10—BOB ORTON JR.

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
2—THE EXECUTIONERS
3—BOBBY DUNCUM & BLACKJACK LANZA
4—BOB BACKLUND & STEVE KEIRN
5—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW & BILLY WHITE WOLF
6—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
7—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
8—THE MONGOLS
9—PHIL HICKERSON & DENNIS CONDRY
10—BULLDOG BROWER & MIGHTY IGOR

MOST HATED WRESTLERS

1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
2—THE SHEIK
3—STAN HANSEN
4—ERNIE LADD
5—THE SPOILER
6—NICK BOCKWINKLE
7—MR. FUGI
8—TERRY FUNK
9—STAN STASIAC
10—JERRY LAWLER



STAN STASIAC



MAD DOG VACHON



ANDRE THE GIANT



ERNIE LADD

6 MONTHS FROM NOW...

You can be the boss of your own locksmith shop!

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furnish professional tools, too

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Train at home, using the professional tools of the trade, with the original, accredited LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE. Be ready in as little as 6 months' time to take care of the demand in your community for professional locksmiths...a demand that is growing rapidly with the increased threats of domestic crime.

Earn while learning, too!

In just a few weeks, you have the know-how and the tools to make extra money changing locks, making keys, doing simple installations. And a few of these jobs each week can add up to several hundred dollars...for some students, even more than they've paid for the course.

Learn by doing

Locksmithing Institute's tested and proved method of home study makes it easy for you to learn...easy to do. Each lesson is fully illustrated and diagrammed and, as you follow the instructions, you work with the tools and materials that have been sent to you with the course. These are not just inexpensive gadgets, but real professional equipment...the tools, supplies, cylinders, tweezers, door handles, gauges, pins, springs, picks, extractors, wrenches, locks and keys...even an electric key machine...equipment that you will be using when you go into business with your own lock shop.

Cash in on the growing need for locksmiths

As an ethical school, we cannot guarantee employment or income for our students, but we do promise to help you develop skill in a profession for which there is a real need. The nationwide need for qualified locksmiths puts you in the driver's seat when it comes to a business that can really pay off for you. And, with your Locksmithing Institute Diploma as a skilled Master Locksmith, you'll be all set to go.

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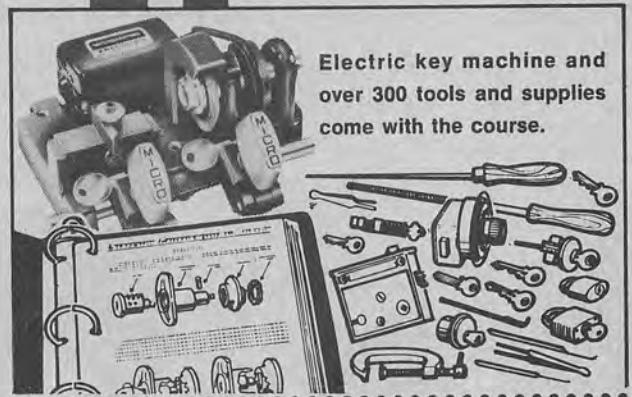


"Highly recommend the course to anyone interested in locksmithing. I've set up a mobile locksmith shop I work out of for spare time earnings. Earned extra money while training."

Jack W. Gray, Mantua, N.J.

"Was able to start my own locksmith service and earned almost \$500 before I'd actually completed the course. Now earn on an average of \$70 a week in my spare time."

Richard Kennedy, Philadelphia, Pa.



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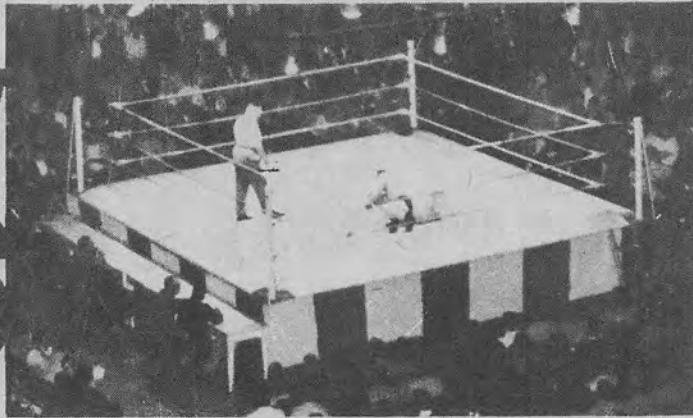
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SINCERELY YOURS



The three current major champions, WWWF king Bruno Sammartino (above), AWA titleholder Nick Bockwinkle (below left), and NWA champ Terry Funk (below right) were profiled in 1976 YEARBOOK #16 to most wrestling fan's delight. "It was really one of the best things I've ever seen," one reader wrote, "and a testament to your writers and editors." For praise like this, we will keep continuing to do our best in bringing fans the best in wrestling.



A GREAT IDEA

I just had to write and tell you how great I thought your Wrestling 1976 Yearbook #16 was.

From reading your special championship issue, I now have a better insight into why the three wrestling champions are the way they are. I think I can appreciate all three of them a little more now.

I sincerely hope you can do another magazine like this one soon. It was really one of the best things I have ever seen, and a testament to your writers and editors.

GEORGE DAVIS
St. Louis, Mo.

BRUNO IS THE BEST

Your Wrestling Yearbook #16 was really dynamite. Putting in stories about all three champions was a good idea. I only wish you would have compared the three men to one another.

The article, "Bruno Sammartino—A Living Legend," was excellent. However, you really didn't say that Bruno is *the greatest* man to ever wrestle, though everyone knows he is. Compared to Sammartino, Terry Funk and Nick Bockwinkle are nothing.

Maybe next time, you should do an entire issue just about the living legend. He deserves that much!

ANTHONY L. DODGESO
Cambridge, Mass.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAMP

All right, you jerks, I have a bone to pick with you. Why the hell did you put me, the greatest of the three champions, last in order in your yearbook? Don't you guys know yet that I, Nick Bockwinkle, am the greatest wrestler of all time?

How dare you spotlight my
(Continued on page 10)

How To Get The Inca Sun God To Bring You Miracles Of Wealth & Happiness (As He Has For Me).

An amazing but true experience that changed my entire life. By Robert L. McCarthy.

Just a few years ago I was really down on my luck. I could never seem to make ends meet. I had a job I hated and I could feel the ax about to fall.

I'd had an operation on my ankle and the cast had just been off a few days when my employers sent me on a business trip to Peru. (I told them my leg was still very weak and a long trip might injure it again. They told me that was my problem).

With a family to support I was not in any position to argue, so with cane in hand I hobbled off to Peru, which turned out to be the greatest blessing of my life.

Lost City Of The Incas.

While I was there I was overcome by a strong urge to visit Machu Picchu, the sacred "Lost City" of the great Inca empire that ruled much of South America for more than 500 years. It actually sits above the clouds high in the Andes Mountains, completely unknown to modern civilization until it was rediscovered in 1911. A masterpiece of engineering, it is built of huge boulders (some weighing hundreds, even thousands) of tons, cut and set in place like the precision jewels of a fine watch.

A Little Help From Their U.F.O. Friends?

Just how the Incas did it is a mystery that still baffles engineers today. Some learned experts even claim they had a little help from their friends. If you have read Von Daniken's best selling book, "Chariot Of The Gods", you have an idea who these friends were. His theory (and it fits right in with Inca legend) is that many of the fantastic Inca constructions were actually developed for use by U.F.O.s.

I made a little discovery of my own.

In my tour of Machu Picchu I got my cane stuck between two rocks near the "Altar of The Sun God". As I freed my cane a small object came out with it. When I examined it, I got the shock of my life. It was perfectly round with a jagged edge and on one side was carved the features of a face. It was obviously an amulet of The Sun God himself.

It's against the law to pirate historical treasures out of Peru.

Not wanting to risk any trouble I kept my find a secret until I got back to the States. And since my little treasure was not a precious stone in the ordinary sense, like the great gems that fill the museums in Lima, I kept it as a sort of good luck charm.

More precious than emeralds.

To me this simple amulet has a power more precious than any emerald or ruby. I don't understand how it works any more than I understand any of the mysteries of Machu Picchu. All I really know is that from the moment I first held it in my hand, my life started changing dramatically for the better.

One miracle after another.

It's been less than four years since I made my little discovery. And in that time my fortunes have turned upward like a shooting star. Today I'm no longer worried about being fired. I own a controlling interest in a multi-million dollar organization that provides me and my family with all the luxuries we'll ever need. I live in a home valued at \$150,000+, drive a \$15,000 car, work as little or as much as I feel like, and have the time and money to go anywhere I please. Last year it was Europe and the Caribbean. Maybe next year I'll take the whole family to Machu Picchu. (It's the least I can do for all the good luck I found there).



right away. You have 365 days in which to prove it works. Or it costs you absolutely nothing!

Share my good fortune with others.

In the last few years I've told many of my friends about the power of the Sun God amulet I found. And in every instance they wished they had something to give them the same amazing luck they'd seen me enjoy. Then one day I decided to have a jewelry company make some exact copies of my amazing amulet to give my friends for gifts. I didn't think any more of it... until they all began asking me if they could buy some more amulets to give their friends and relatives. And then they all told me the most fantastic stories of how their luck had improved suddenly.

Everyone who's had one wouldn't be without one.

They all said they didn't believe in any kind of "magic" and weren't the least bit superstitious. And all that good luck was probably a fantastic coincidence, but they weren't taking any chances. Whatever it was about that little Sun God, they weren't sure, but they certainly weren't going to be without one. They were concerned that if they should lose theirs they'd be out of luck, since no store carries them. At this point I went back to the same jewelry company and gave them the exclusive contract to reproduce, right down to the last detail, a limited quantity of the same little Sun God amulets my friends have all worn with such success. (Each faithfully copied from the original I found at Machu Picchu).

The Sun God has the proud handmade look of a genuine antique.

He stares at you with the wisdom of the ages and the appearance of very old silver. And though He is a God and not a Goddess - He is in no way a male chauvinist. He favors men and women equally. With His matching 23" chain, He looks just as great against a low-cut gown as He does a hairy chest.

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The sooner you mail this coupon, the sooner the Sun God can start bringing you good luck every day. But you'd better hurry - this is a limited edition. And not sold anywhere else!

**Robert L. McCarthy, Dept. R5-2517
380 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017**

quantity _____

Rush me () of the limited edition authentic Inca Sun God amulets. The exact same design as the one Mr. McCarthy found at Machu Picchu and brought him such tremendous luck.

I understand that I may keep it for 365 days, at your risk. Money back if not 100% delighted with my new found luck. On that basis, here is \$9.95 (plus 75¢ for postage and handling. Cash, check or money order. Payable to Robert L. McCarthy. Bring your friends good luck, too. Order 2 for \$19.90 (And we'll pay postage and handling; so you save \$1.50). Better order now. This is a limited edition, first come, first serve.

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Maybe it's from the same supernatural Being some experts believe helped the Incas build Machu Picchu. And maybe it's all in our minds. Perhaps this particular design, this image, is made to work like a key. When it touches our consciousness it simply unlocks a power which we all possess but are unaware of. Just because we don't yet understand it doesn't mean it doesn't work. It has for me and a lot of my friends. I believe it will for you as well.

Sincerely, *Robert L. McCarthy*

A sworn statement by Mr. McCarthy's Accountant.

I hereby certify that Mr. McCarthy does indeed own a multi-million dollar business. Which he has built up from virtually nothing in less than three years. It's one of the most startling success stories I've ever witnessed.

James Reilly
— James Reilly
Accountant



This is me amidst the llamas at Machu Picchu. The sacred lost city of the Incas. High in the Andes Mountains of Peru. This picture was taken January 25, 1973, the day I found the little Inca Sun God amulet. (Just look at the size of those boulders behind me). Remember, the average Inca was under five feet tall. And they didn't have any horses, oxen, or other large beasts of burden. Now I ask you. Did they do it all by themselves? Or did they have a little help from the Sun God?

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 8)



Above: A jubilant Terry Funk holds the NWA belt in the air after defeating Jack Brisco.

fascinating life story on page 42, when you had that punk Terry Funk and that washed-up has-been Bruno Sammartino on the pages before me. Your readers don't want to read about those clumsy spastics. They want to read about me, the greatest wrestler to ever grace the mat wars!

Let's have no more of this kind of mistake. From now on, you guys had better make sure that I am always first in your magazines. The fans want it that way—I know!

NICK BOCKWINKLE
Minneapolis, Minn.

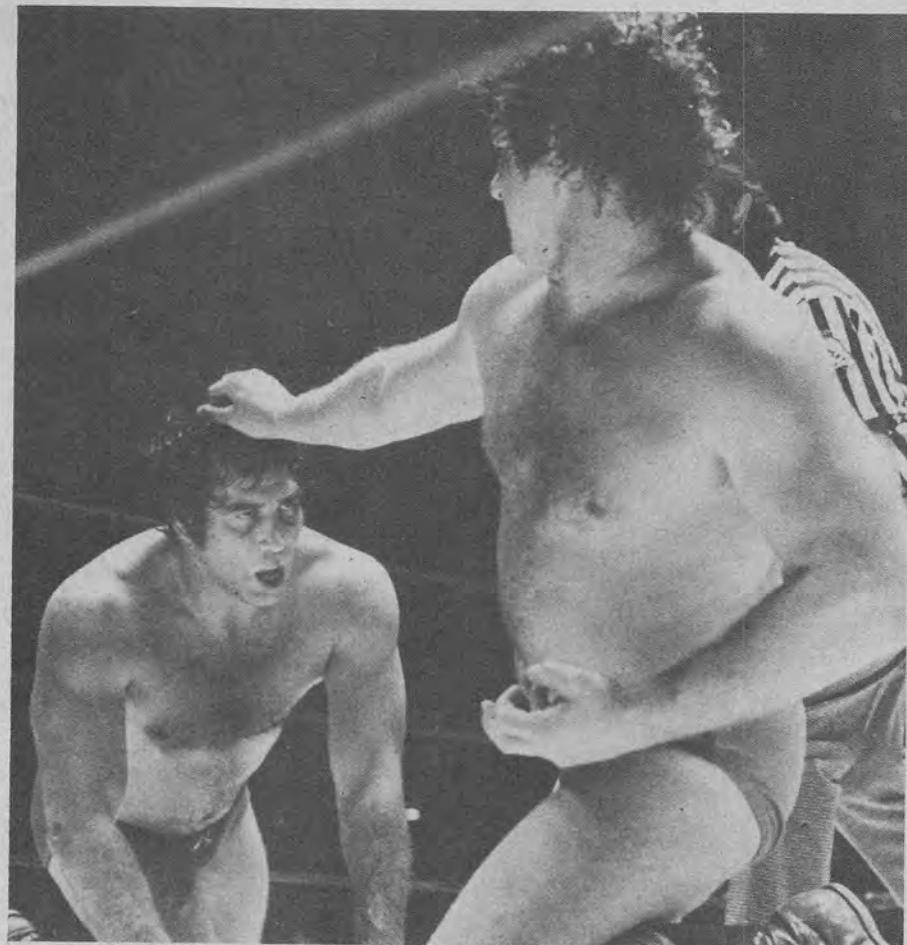
FROM A FUNK FAN

I really enjoyed your story about my favorite wrestler, Terry Funk. The biography you did tracing his career in wrestling was remarkably perceptive and very informative.

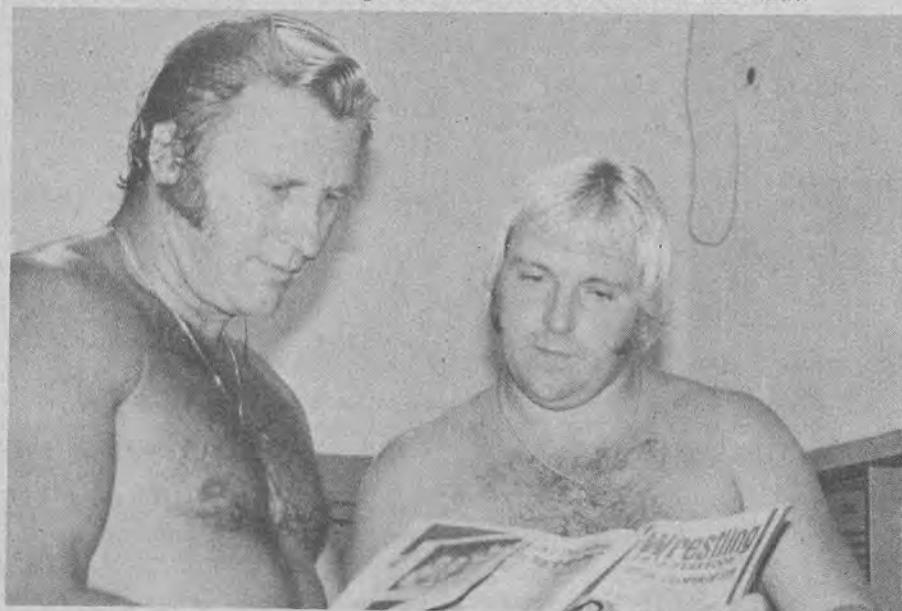
However, I do disagree with your calling Terry "The Accidental Champion." Even though he won the title due to a fluke in the circumstances, he really did deserve the NWA honors. I was not surprised when I heard he had won the belt. I knew it was inevitable.

Terry Funk is still young, and he has many good years ahead of him as NWA champion. He is destined to be the greatest champion of all time.

OLIVIA PATTERSON
Amarillo, Tex.



Above: Terry Funk batters then NWA champion Jack Brisco. A few minutes after this photo was taken, Funk defeated Brisco to be the new NWA titleholder. Terry's reign has been one marked by controversy and outrage. Below: Bobby Heenan and Nick Bockwinkle examine 1976 YEARBOOK #16. Bockwinkle is enraged to find himself last in the magazine, behind Sammartino and Funk.



ARE WE TOO NICE?

I have come to the conclusion that you guys are just too nice to men who do not deserve one ounce of kindness. I am referring to your Wrestling Yearbook #16 where you spotlighted the three major champions.

These three men are not perfect. Indeed, they are far from it. However, each of your stories was complimentary to these men. Therefore, the articles did not tell the whole story.

(Continued on page 51)

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39 Kelly's Tr. Park
Millinocket, ME 04462
Likes baseball. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



CLINTON FREEMAN (13)
154 E. 71 Street
New York, NY 10016
Collects cards. Sheik
his favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



MARY SZCZEPANSKI (16)
Route 1
Little Suamico, WI 54141
Likes animals. Buddy
Wolff her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



DONNA SESTITO (10)
731 Raymere Avenue
Interlaken, NJ 07712
Likes sports. Mil
Mascara her favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



DAVID SNIFFEN (13)
83 Croton Dam Road
Ossining, NY 10562
Collects magazines.
Bruno Sammartino
his favorite. Likes
good guys. Girls
for pen pals.



TONY ESPOSITO (11)
610 Gladiola Drive
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
Lifts weights. Jack
Brisco his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



GARY CLENDENNEN (20)
Box 537
Bloomington, TX 77951
Likes sports. Jose
Lothario his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



JEFF WALITS (12)
63 Croton Dam Rd.
Ossining, NY 10562
Likes motorcycles.
Jay Strongbow his
favorite. Likes
good guys. Girls
for pen pals.



MARGARET TANNER (13)
RR2 Stewiacke
Col Co., N.S., Canada
Enjoys bicycling.
Leo Burk her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



JEFFREY HARBAUGH (11)
952 Lanvale Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Likes basketball.
Ivan Putski his
favorite. Likes
good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



RAY CATRON (13)
P. O. Box 119
St. Charles, VA 24282
Lifts weights. Paul
Jones his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



ROXANNE WIEGERT (10)
Rt. 4 Box 252
Kingston, NY 12401
Likes ice skating.
Ivan Putski her
favorite. Likes
good guys. Girls
for pen pals.

N PALS



DONN SELF (15)
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W. Memphis, AR 73201
Likes motorcycles.
King Pat Carson his favorite.
Likes bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



HENRY LAING JR. (15)
Box 239 Texas Road
Morganville, NJ 07751
Likes camping. Bruno Sammartino his favorite.
Likes good guys. Girls for PP's.



DEERY PALMER (18)
RFD 1
Milton, VT 05468
Enjoys skiing.
Sheik her favorite.
Likes bad guys.
Boys for pen pals.



PATTY VITTIBURGA (12)
59 Richardson Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Likes sports. Favorite is Mil Mascaras. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



BARON OLIVER (13)
997 S. 13 Street
Newark, NJ 07103
Enjoys track.
Dusty Rhodes his favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



BARBARA SCHWARTZ (16)
1385 Decarie Blvd. #21
Ville St. Laurent, Canada
Plays drums. Andre the Giant her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



ROBERT SCHWARTZ (13)
1385 Decarie Blvd. #21
Ville St. Laurent, Canada
Likes swimming. Eduoard Carpenter his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



SHELLY GERMAN (16)
422 S. Main Avenue
Scranton, PA 18504
Likes sports. Spiros Arion favorite wrestler.
Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



DEBBIE ALDRIDGE (22)
Box 45
Rutledge, MO 63563
Collects pictures.
Mike George her favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



ROBIN TELLER (25)
Box 123
Oakland Gardens, NY 11364
Enjoys football. Billy Graham his favorite.
Likes bad guys. Girls for pen pals.



DANNY ROLON (16)
77 Tompkins Ave. #15G
Brooklyn, NY 11206
Likes swimming. Mil Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



TIMOTHY WOOD (10)
Rt. 1
Tompkinsville, KY 42167
Enjoys baseball. Andre the Giant his favorite.
Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.



AVIS REIMER (9)
Rt. 12
Mandaree, ND 58757
Rides bikes. Greg Gagne her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for PP's.



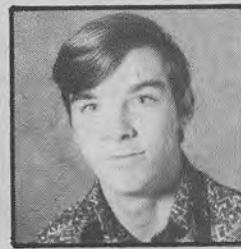
JEFF STODDARD (17)
Old Rt. 82
Craryville, NY 12521
Likes hunting. Ivan Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



MARIE TUCKER (14)
501 E. Rudy
Mattoon, IL 61938
Enjoys music. Pepper Gomez her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



TOM CLARIDGE (15)
115 Prospect Avenue
Bayonne, NJ 07002
Enjoys planes. Sky Lo Lo his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



VERNON LEBO (16)
923 Sierra Drive
Mesquite, TX 75149
Plays guitar. Rick Martell his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



KIM CRAFT (12)
113 Crow Avenue
Norton, VA 24273
Likes swimming.
Andre the Giant her favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for PP's.

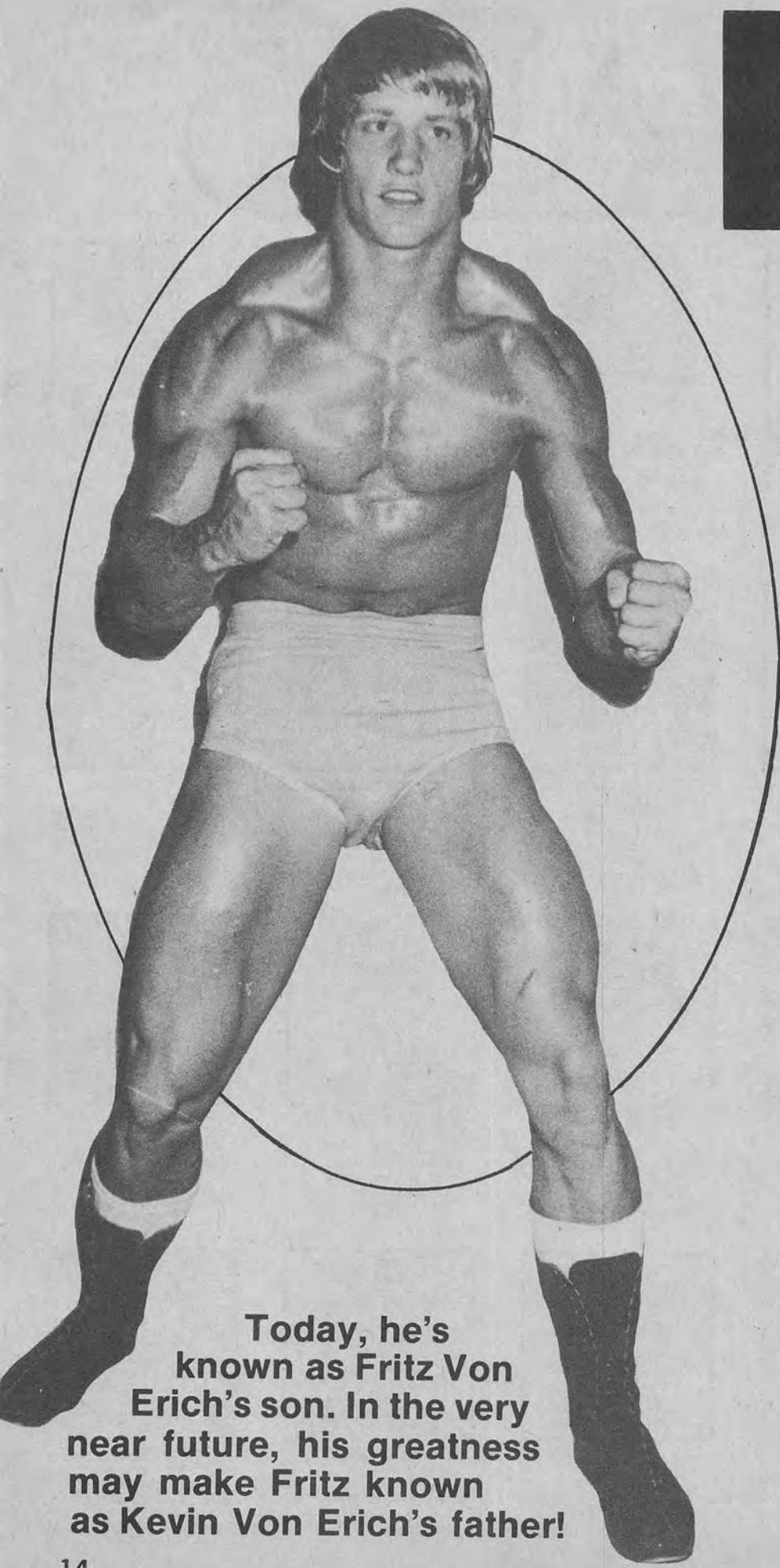


ANTHONY JAMES (15)
5045 W. West End
Chicago, IL 60644
Likes baseball. Ox Baker his favorite.
Likes bad guys.
Girls for PP's.

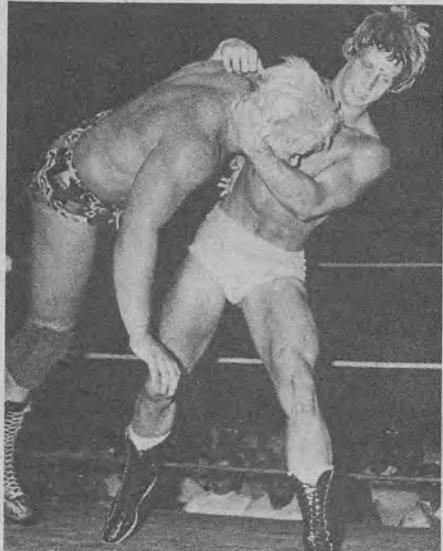


MICHAEL MACK (14)
4239 W. Fillmore
Chicago, IL 60624
Likes baseball. Ox Baker his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.

INTR



Today, he's known as Fritz Von Erich's son. In the very near future, his greatness may make Fritz known as Kevin Von Erich's father!



It's no wonder Kevin Von Erich (left) has captured women's hearts. Kevin also proves he's a fine tough battler (above).

TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN waited patiently outside the wrestlers' entrance to the arena. One was a sophisticated blonde, obviously the product of wealth and education. The other looked as if she had come off the farm, blonde and innocent. Both were waiting for Kevin Von Erich.

The two women looked at each other and knew instinctively they were on the same mission. It was their dream to meet Kevin Von Erich, a handsome man who has captured the heart of women all over the West. As a rookie wrestler, Kevin has also won the respect of fans, promoters, and especially colleagues.

"Have you ever met him?" the blonde asked the blonde, her voice filled with envy and excitement.

"No," was the reply, "but I've seen him wrestle. And that's enough to know I have to meet him."

There was nothing more for the women to say. They shared adoration for a superb young athlete. Explanations weren't needed; they were born understanding each other.

They would be doomed to disappointment. While they waited

INTRODUCING... KEVIN VON ERICH

patiently, Kevin was already inside the dressing room. It's his habit to arrive very early, suit up before anyone else arrives, and test the ring. He wants to know how it feels underfoot, get comfortable with its unique properties. He also gets comfortable with the lights, seeing how their glare affects his eyesight. Chance is the enemy.

Kevin can't afford to be sloppy. A man makes his own luck and unlucky is only poor planning. When your

father is a famous wrestler, Fritz Von Erich, you've got to constantly prove you're not in the arena due to father's influence. Kevin feels impelled to prove deserving of the help his father gave him.

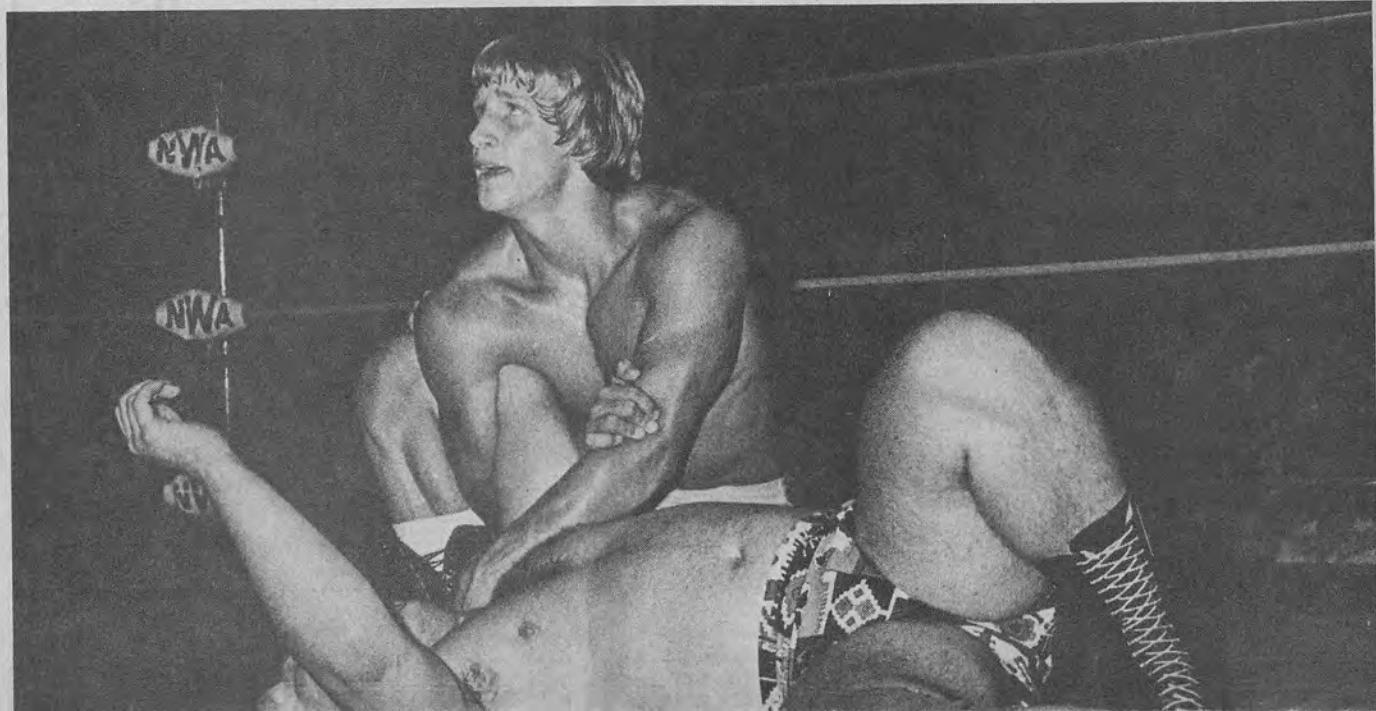
After checking out the arena, the young man goes back to the dressing room. Out comes a thick notebook filled with strategies and evaluations of opponents. He studies them before each encounter, keeping his mind as sharp as his body. If championships

are won on hard work—and most are—Von Erich can't help being a future champion.

"Ever since I was old enough to understand what was going on," Kevin says, "I have wanted to be a wrestler.

(Continued on page 50)

Kevin has demonstrated a truly remarkable repertoire of holds for one so young, as his sure figure-four armlock reveals. Few rookies can master this.



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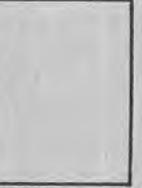
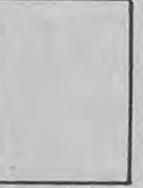
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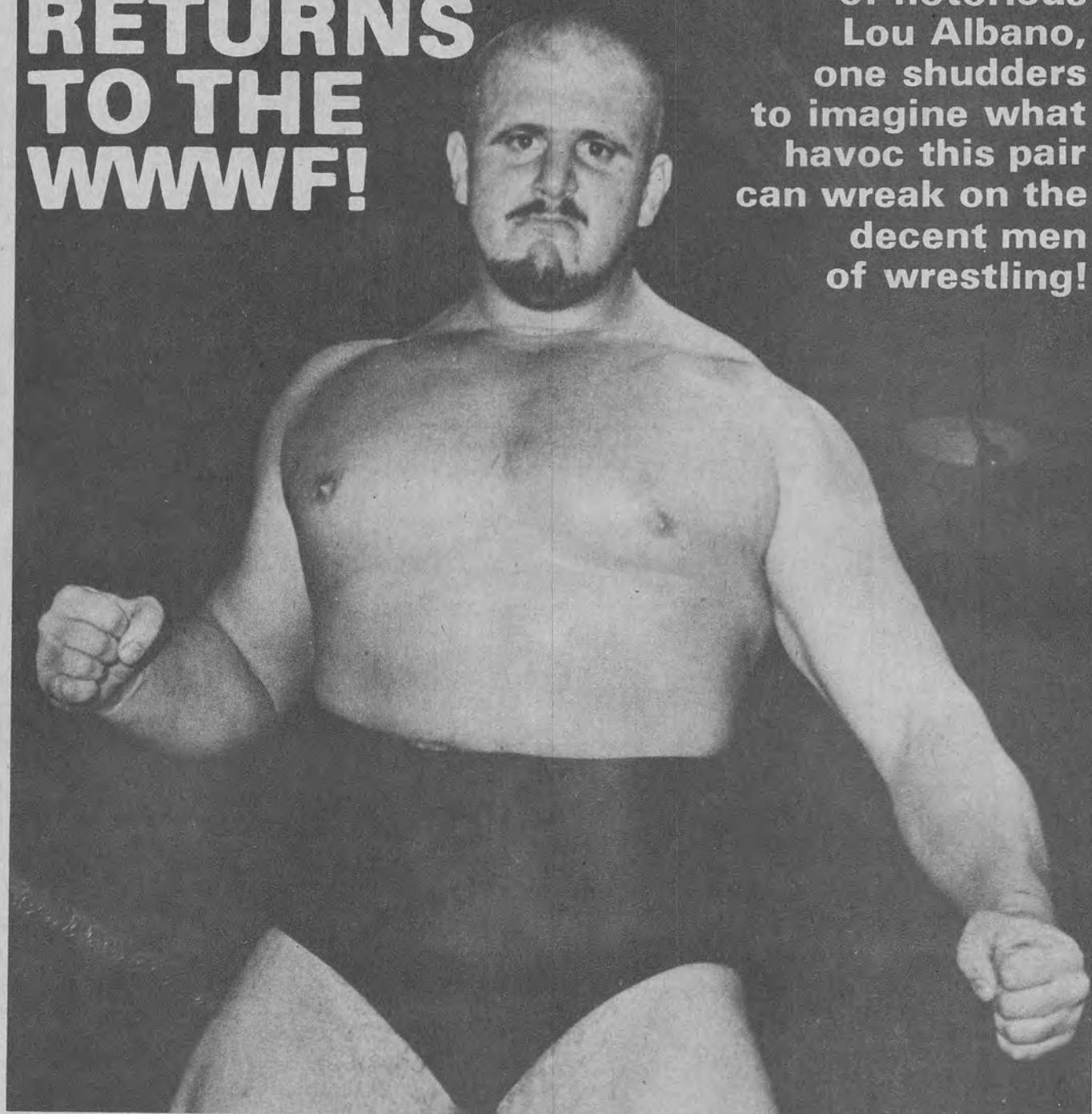
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NIKOLAI VOLKOFF: FEAR RETURNS TO THE WWWF!

Nikolai Volkoff has always been ruthlessly dangerous. Now, under the guiding hand of notorious Lou Albano, one shudders to imagine what havoc this pair can wreak on the decent men of wrestling!



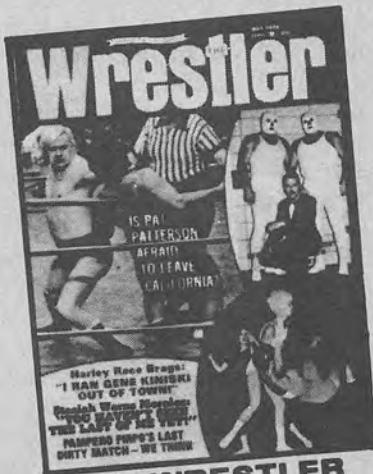
IT TOOK ONLY one telegram under 10 words to convince Nikolai Volkoff his greatest victory was yet to come: The WWWF champion would be his. The telegram was sent by manager Lou Albano.

Within 24 hours of opening the wire, Volkoff was standing in front of the man who sent it. It had cost the grappler a pretty penny to get out of contracts so he could make the journey. Nikolai considered it a

wise investment in his future. He believes in Albano's genius. And when that fails, there's always the manager's ruthlessness.

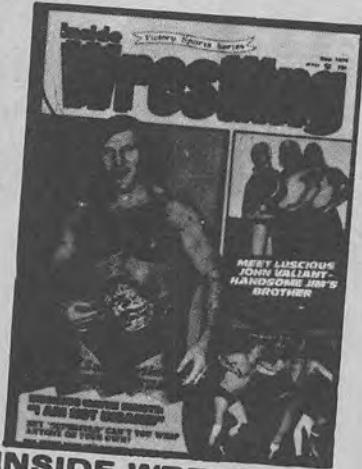
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(Continued on page 52)

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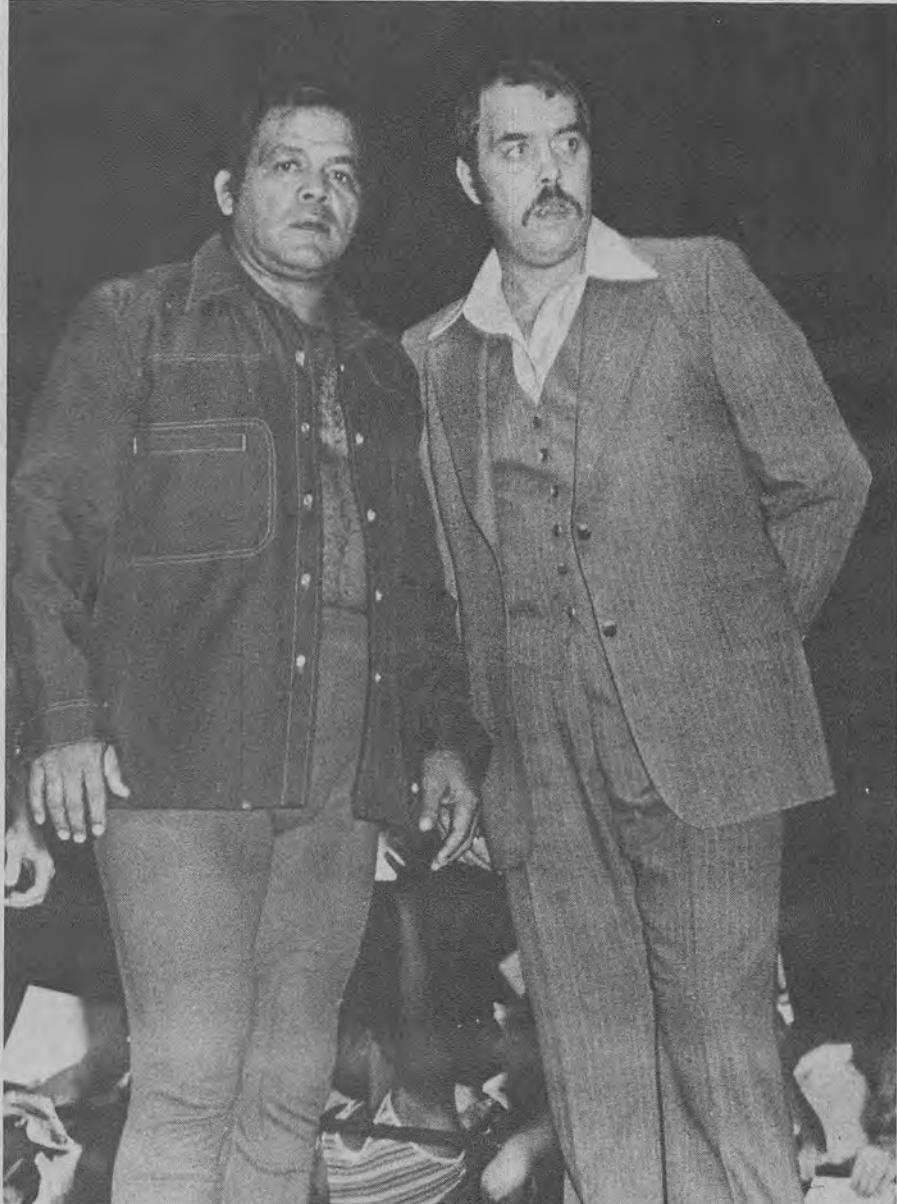
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Jose Lothario and Gary Hart:



A FEW MONTHS ago, most people would have bet their life savings they'd never see notorious Gary Hart managing respected Jose Lothario. Incredibly, those people would be paupers today; Lothario has Hart in his corner!

What made this impossibility a reality? It couldn't have been possible without Jim Dillon, a man who can make a cat and dog team up against him. Yet, even accounting for Dillon, it's a pretty startling accomplishment.

When Gary Hart first traveled to Texas, Jim Dillon was the first man he sought out. It was to be expected; the men had so much in common. Each is a hated manager, renown for rulebreaking tactics. Hart hoped to join forces with Dillon, forming an empire that would rule Texas wrestling with an iron fist. There would be no way to stop them.

However, the pair clashed almost immediately. Both driven by a maniacal need for power, neither would give up any strength. Their alliance was doomed by megalomania. What started as a partnership ended in hatred. Before they ever got rolling, they were at each other's throats.

Hart has always sought the best when he seeks destruction. It didn't take him too long to see the best way to destroy Dillon's best wrestler, Moondog Mayne, would be to enlist the most accomplished grappler in the area. It didn't take Hart long to settle on Jose Lothario.

"I was shocked when Hart called," Jose admits, "and pretty insulted, too. I didn't think my reputation would attract Hart to me. It's no secret we believe in very different things. Gary believes in winning at any price; I believe in victory with dignity or not at all. I didn't think we had anything to talk about."

"Hart sensed my rage over the phone and begged for just three minutes of my time. I could hang up any time after that. Two hours later,

PARTNERS... IN HATRED!

It's incredible to believe Jose Lothario would join forces with the hated Gary Hart. The story behind this partnership is one every wrestling fan must read to learn what makes the men in this sport the remarkable competitors they are!

after some of the most remarkable logic I've ever heard, I promised to wrestle for Hart. That man has a golden tongue!

"I was embarrassed to tell friends what I'd done. Many of my closest advisors begged me to call it off. I was tempted to back out a hundred times. But Hart made sense!

"Hart wants Dillon's hide; so do I. Alone, neither of us will do that. Together, we can get Dillon. And Hart promised I wouldn't have to compromise my integrity. I believed him. After all, if we stayed together, he had everything to gain and nothing to lose. So I trusted him because it would be in his best interests to keep us together."

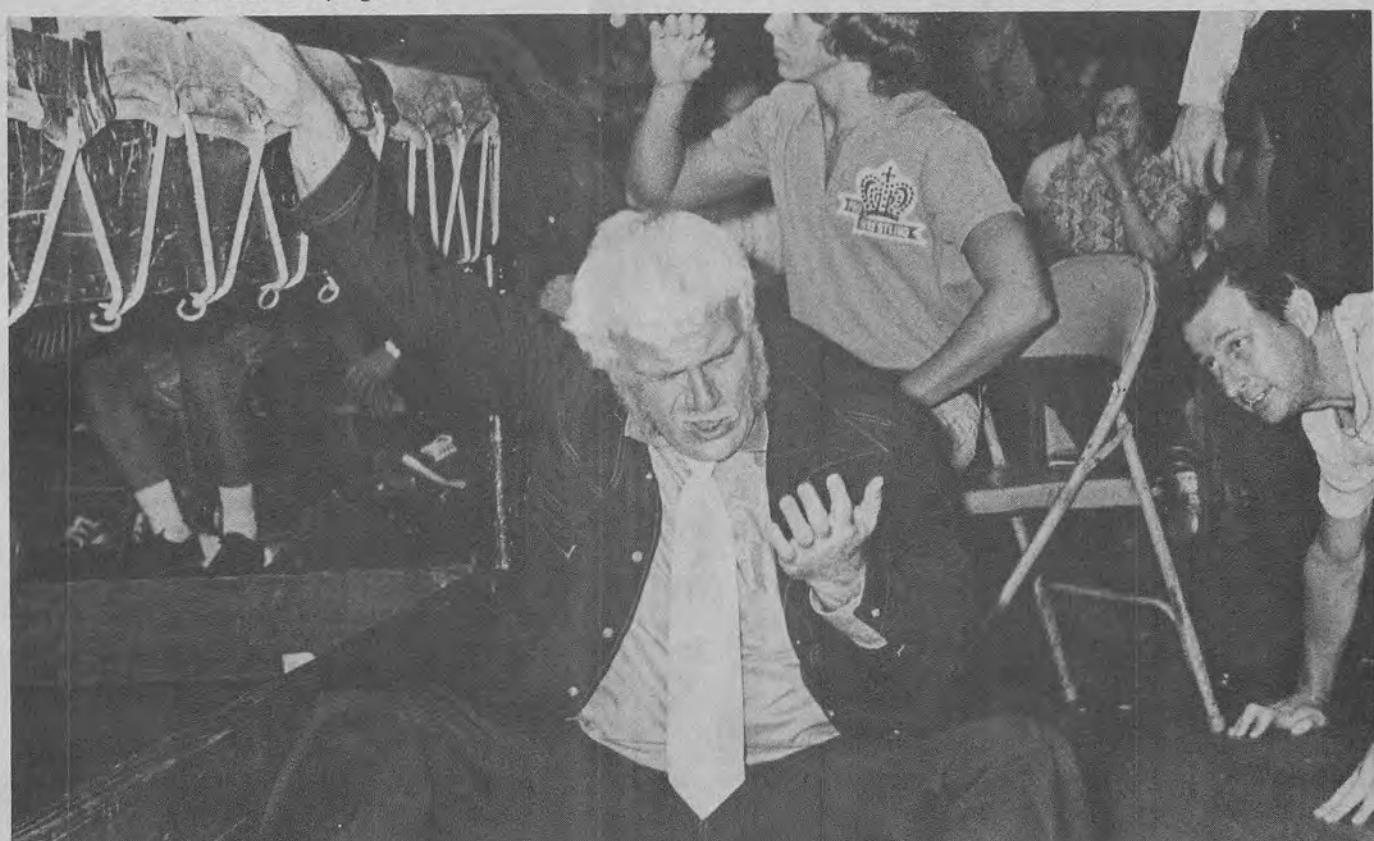
Hart devised his most elaborate strategies to vanquish Moondog Mayne. He also spent a good deal of time figuring ways to neutralize Jim Dillon. Most of those ways involved Hart's cane. Gary couldn't wait to crack it over Dillon's skull.

"What's happening today," Hart proclaimed before the match, "is a

(Continued on page 56)



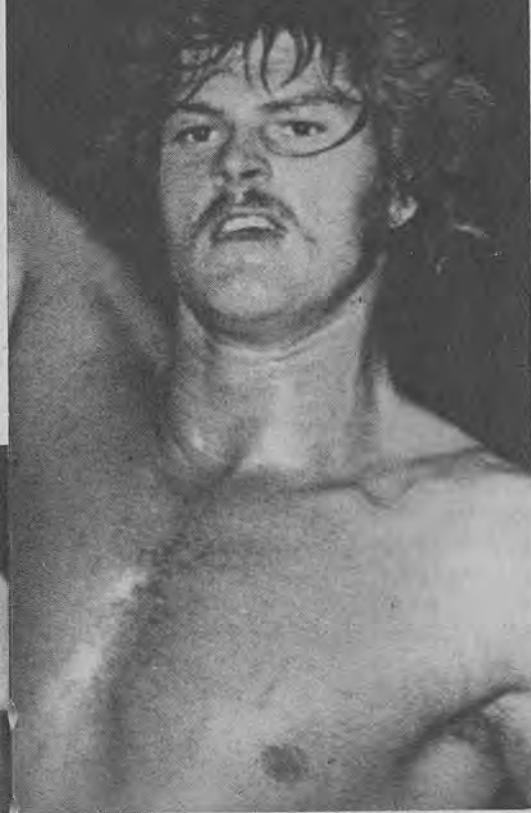
Hart's cane is a weapon as he smashes Jim Dillon over the head and knocks his foe senseless (above). His instinct for survival operating while his brain reeled in agony's fog, Dillon rolls off the canvas and falls onto the cement floor (below). In the bout between the wrestlers, Lothario was making it rough for Mayne.





Bob Armstrong & Robert Fuller BLOODY BUT U

Greatness can only be won by risk and arduous struggle. Bob Armstrong and Robert Fuller are determined to be great. They will either succeed— or be destroyed trying!



THEIRS IS A union forged in blood and pain. Mistakes mean agony, but they can't be prevented. The path to glory is rutted with scars.

As a tag team, Bob Armstrong and Robert Fuller have a long way to go. They're good, but they still make too many errors. The graceful meshing of athletic skills is still a long way

off. Victory is due to courage, rather than skill. The price has been very high for every success they've enjoyed.

Both wrestlers acknowledge they're far from what they strive to be. However, they're suffering through this period for a very good reason. At least, they're convinced it makes sense.

"Most tag teams," Armstrong admits, "wouldn't be wrestling in the shape we're in. They'd take those mistakes out in the gym, where they don't hurt so much. By the time they get into a real match, they're pretty slick. They don't make great mistakes. And they never get any better than mediocre. It's happened millions of times. Everyone knows that."

"My theory, and it works, is that you must learn in actual combat. You must sense your partner's reaction to trouble, and then work hard to know what he does when the pressure is on. You can't learn that in a gym."

"Admittedly, it's a dangerous way to be great. We make some mistakes that could put us in the hospital. We have to take a lot of risks. Luck has been a good friend. If it deserts us, pray for Armstrong and Fuller."

"With Fuller, I think we've got the chance to be something really special. When you have that opportunity, the risks become worth it. When going all the way, you can't take the easy road. It's all or nothing. And we have the chance to get it all."

"Look, for 98% of the tag teams, what we're doing would be ludicrous. They don't have the chance to be great, so the risks aren't worth it. I don't take these risks with most tag team partners, but this is special!"

Robert Fuller, with less experience than Armstrong, agrees. It's been tough for the young man, tougher than for the wily veterans.

"I guess I've taken more lumps in these past few months than at any other time in my career," Fuller says ruefully. "When Bob first told me how we'd learn to work together—



The hood of one of the Masked Superstars is theirs (opposite page) after a hard fought match by Robert and Bob. Bloody but not a team to call it quits (above) they go back to take some more punishment (below).

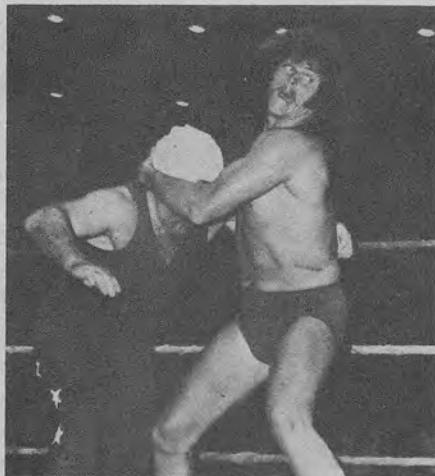


in actual combat—I thought he was crazy, that he had taken too many shots to the head. But then I looked back on my own record as a tag team partner.

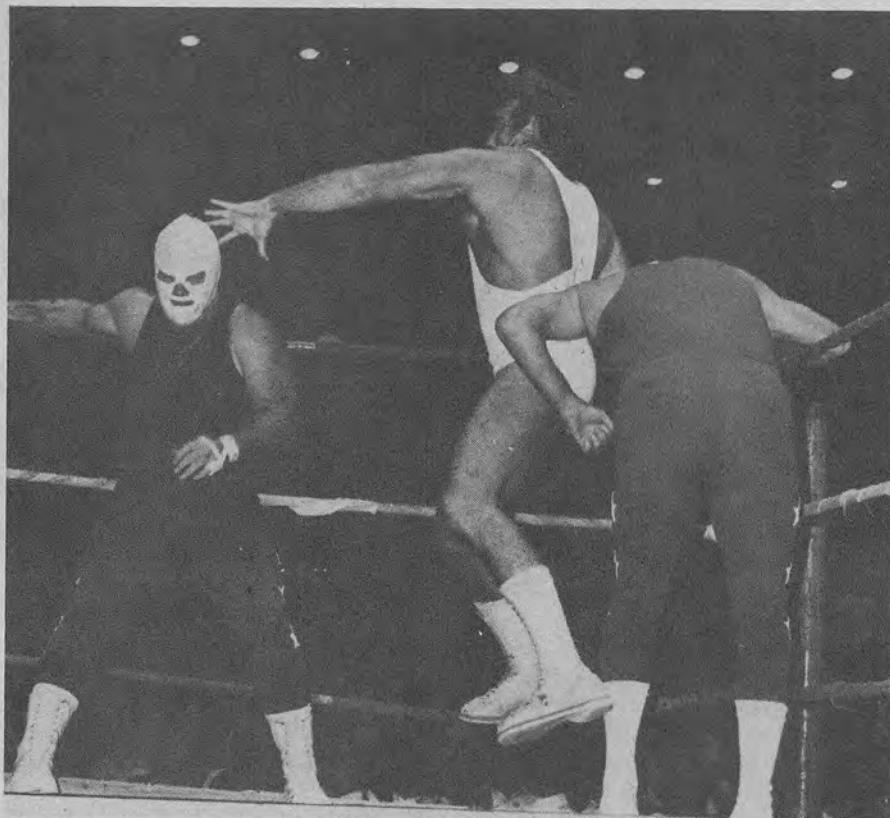
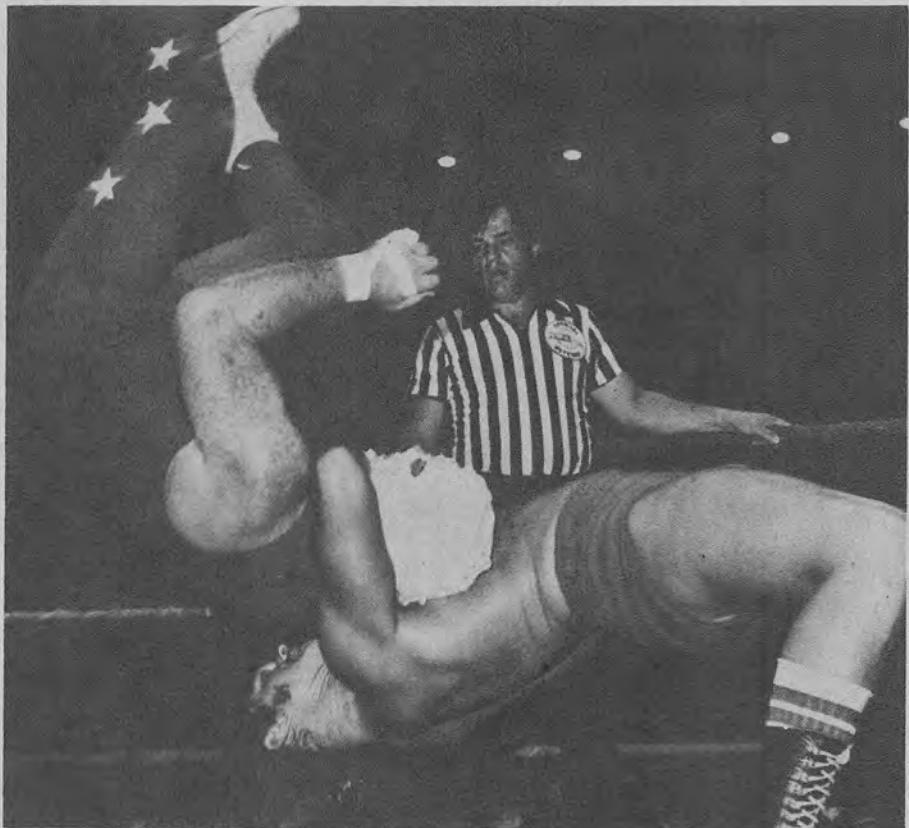
"It's no secret something important has been missing in every tag team I've been in. Even the ones that have been successful lacked the spark to make them great. So, I guess I'd been doing something wrong."

"Bob didn't try to hide the fact of how dangerous this method is. He told me my career could be ended pretty quickly. He wasn't lying there. Bob explained this is only for

NBOWED!



Fuller tries to flip Superstar #1 across the ring (above). When that fails he changes plans and suplexes him (right). Armstrong's determination gets him out of a very tight doubleteaming scheme (below). He punched his way out.



those who want to be great, want to work their way into the record books. He promised me we'd finally work together so well, it would be greater than any thrill I'd known in athletics.

"That's what convinced me. And I've felt it! I really have! There have been stray moments when it's all

come together. I can't describe the sensation, but it's enough to make it all worthwhile. Someday, we're going to have an entire match when everything works perfectly. It's what all athletes strive for, yet only a few can attain. And I'm going to get there!"

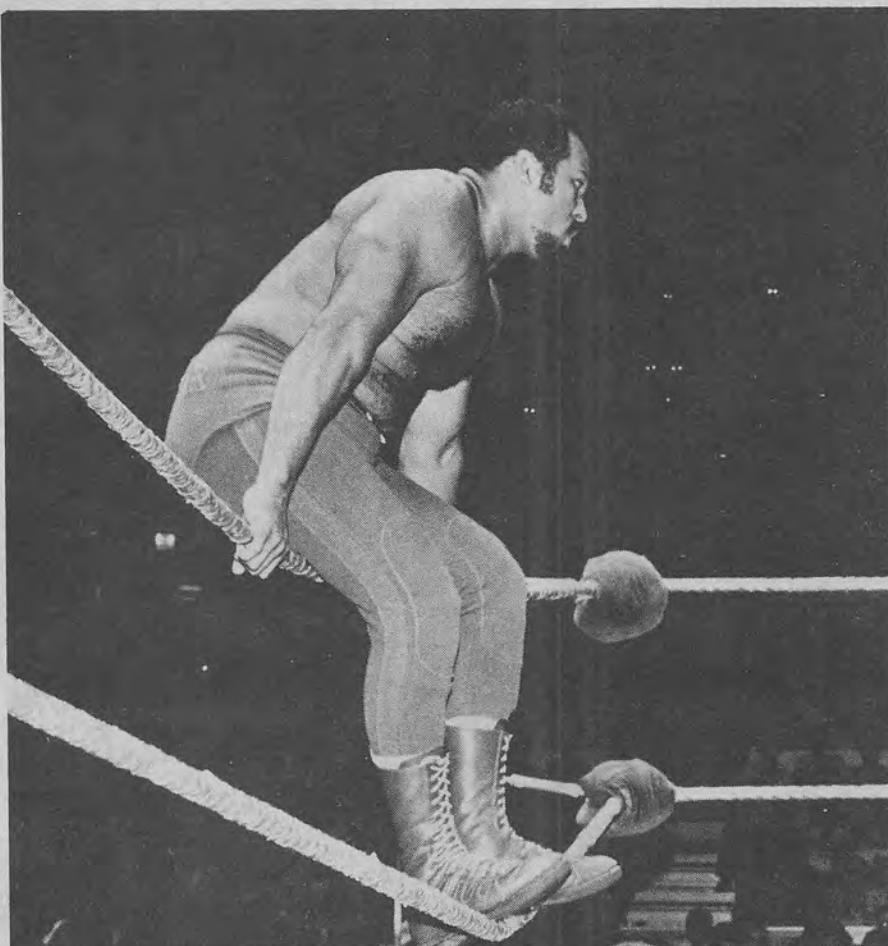
Fuller will get there if he survives.

It's rare when there's a match without both men being bloodied. They are often the victims of doubleteaming, brought about by errors. Victory has been lost due to inexperience. A slicker tag team would have been able to avert disaster.

But a slicker tag team can never approach Fuller and Armstrong at their best. Slowly but surely, the pair is improving. Now, almost every match has an instance of breathtaking greatness. However, that moment is often lost to an error that most teams would have corrected in training.

It's a long, slow process chosen by Fuller and Armstrong. They seem to be satisfied with their progress and delighted with isolated instances. Other tag teams are admittedly more wary of the pair. Where once Armstrong and Fuller were sought out as clumsy pushovers, they've now gained the respect of opponents. Can fear be far behind?

"I don't mind telling you," Fuller admits with a grin, "this is the hardest thing I've ever done. I don't think we've had an easy match since we started. I've got muscles hurting I never knew I had. Sometimes, I forget what life was like without stitches. My friends outside of wrestling think I'm crazy. But my friends inside the profession are envious as hell."



**Jose Gonzales
thought veteran
Johnny Rodz was
trying to em-
barrass him.
Jose was right**

*Johnny Rodz isn't budging (left)
as he tries to kill time in his
match against Jose Gonzales. He
admitted he was trying to knock
Jose's strategy off with his own
brand of very unusual strategy.*

**"DON'T
JUST
SIT
THERE..."**

WRESTLE!"

THE YOUNG, FIERY Puerto Rican tiger was fuming. Yes, Jose Gonzales' temper was flaring. It had reached its peak. And it was Johnny Rodz, a sly, roughhouse wrestler, who was responsible.

What was Rodz doing to get Jose in this furious state of mind? He was just sitting. That's right. Just sitting. Sitting on the ropes!

As hard as it is to believe, halfway through their match Rodz just perched himself on the top strand and sat there, and he wasn't moving!

You're probably wondering why. And Rodz has no bones about explaining his side of the story.

"No, I wouldn't move," Rodz admitted. "No way. You see, this Gonzales is a puppy as far as I'm concerned. I'm an experienced master. He was trying to make me look bad.

(Continued on page 58)

*Rodz' plans
are foiled as
Jose lifts
him off the
ropes and
sends him
flying with
this spectac-
ular toss.
Both Rodz and
Jose are
vying for top
honors in the
east and this
match was
important for
both of them.*



PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON

WRESTLING'S SEXIES

Below: It's a chain of headlocks as the girls give and get punishment at the same time. The only one not forced to absorb the excruciating pain is Vicki Williams, who goes on to win the match. It was a good night for Vicki for many reasons.



Vicki Williams (below) has every right to smile as she wins the \$1,000 prize for the battle royal. Vicki earned the money by wrestling like a spitfire. She was all over the ring, hurling opponents over the ropes with pinpoint efficiency.





They fought like wildcats for the \$1,000 prize. But they all want to know why it was only \$1,000



Above: The ring is filled with battling women as each tries to win the \$1,000 prize. Right: The legs belong to Sue Green as she struggles to stay in the running for the check. Sue stayed a lot longer than many of the girls who have her trapped.

WT BATTLE ROYAL!

THE ELECTRIC TENSION could be felt through the entire arena. In the dressing rooms there was a subdued silence. Each girl knew everyone else near her would become an enemy the moment the buzzer sounded. With \$1,000 at stake, friendships would be forgotten as long as the battle lasted.

Compared to what men can earn in a battle royal, up to \$50,000, the \$1,000 seemed paltry to some of the nine girls participating. There were grumblings, with Donna Christiano voicing the complaints.

"Because we're women," Donna announced angrily, "they think they

can get us cheap! Can you imagine nine men having a battle royal for only a grand? That's unheard of—but not for women. This bout should be worth at least \$10,000. It's things like this that make girls feel like second-class wrestlers.

"You know something, though, we're happy to get a chance for even \$1,000. It's not often we have a battle royal. The money is lousy but it's all that's around."

Other girls expressed the same disappointment over the size of the purse but took it philosophically. Vicki Williams looked at the situation from that point of view.

"The \$1,000 is a beginning," Vicki believes. "Girl wrestling is slowly but surely working its way to an even par with men. Women have always been paid less than men, in wrestling as in everywhere else. I'll bet by next year we have a lot more money at stake. It's going to take time."

"I think all the girls realize it's up to us to prove to the fans and promoters that we are just as much, if not more, exciting than men in battle royals. So when we go out there tonight, it's not just going to be for a single check. It's an investment in the future." *Continued*



As Joyce Grable and Vicki Williams try to unmask Miss Wrestling, Peggy Patterson lashes a kick into Vicki's back (above). Vicki is able to recover and go on to win. She smiles happily (below) accepting the \$1,000 check.



Above: Vicki and Sue team up to send the masked Miss Wrestling over the ropes, leaving the two women to battle for the victory themselves.

Left: As Donna Christnello and Dottie Downs try to eliminate Joyce Grable, Vicki Williams tries to get Dottie Downs.



Daisy Mae claimed to be uninterested in the money. She was participating for other reasons.

"I love battle royals!" the pretty hillbilly enthused. "It's always so wild with everyone swinging away. It's as close to total chaos as you're going to get. It's a totally a rough-and-tumble affair. You may finish the match without any money, covered with bruises, but you've had a hell of a lot of fun!"

"Sure I'd like the same amount of money offered as the men get. I became a professional wrestler be-

cause I wanted to earn money wrestling. But if the dough isn't there, it isn't there. I'm not going to let the small purse kill my good time."

So it was nine very different girls who climbed through those ropes to compete for the \$1,000. They were there for the enjoyment, the money, and the pride. Each had her own reasons but each had only one purpose—to be the last one in the ring.

As might be expected when nine wildcats are in a confined space and told to tear into each other,

the action was furious from the moment the buzzer sounded. It was every girl for herself and each wanted to be the winner.

Within the first minute, the ladies found themselves in a headlock line—no sooner would one clamp a headlock on an opponent than she herself would become a victim of the identical hold. All nine girls were connected. Only Vicki Williams, at the front of the line, administered pain without receiving any.

Continued



The match features different styles and different tactics but one thing all the women shared in common—the desire to win! It's a brutal, savage free-for-all, a match where survival is truly to the fittest. Miss Wrestling and Daisy Mae show their opponents how much pain must be suffered if they hope to win the battle and \$1,000.

The line was broken up when Sue Green wrenched herself free, releasing her victim at the same time. It started a chain reaction and soon all the women were free. Then they were ready for action!

And the action followed fast and furiously. The ring was filled with punching, clawing, women battering each other mercilessly. There was one-on-one action, girls ganging up on a sole victim, and groups swinging away at whomever stepped into range. The ferocity of the wrestling was awesome. Many fans were too stunned by the exhibition to even cheer!

One by one, however, the girls were thrown over the ropes. But before they crashed to the concrete many took some skin and hair off their conqueror. No girl went docilely over the ropes.

When six girls were left, they

again found themselves connected in a chain—a chain of women yanking at each other's legs. Some girls had both legs pulled while others had their hands full but legs untouched. The screams from those captured filled the arena.

This too ended but not without two more girls being thrown over the ropes. Again the elimination began. The four girls kicked, punched, and did anything imaginable in attempts to send their opponents onto the concrete floor.

Eventually, there were three girls left. Vicki Williams, Sue Green, and the masked Miss Wrestling stared at each other cautiously, waiting for one or the other to move. Then, Sue's and Vicki's eyes met. The two girls nodded quickly. In a rush, they grabbed Miss Wrestling and hurled her over the ropes.

That left Vicki and Sue to battle

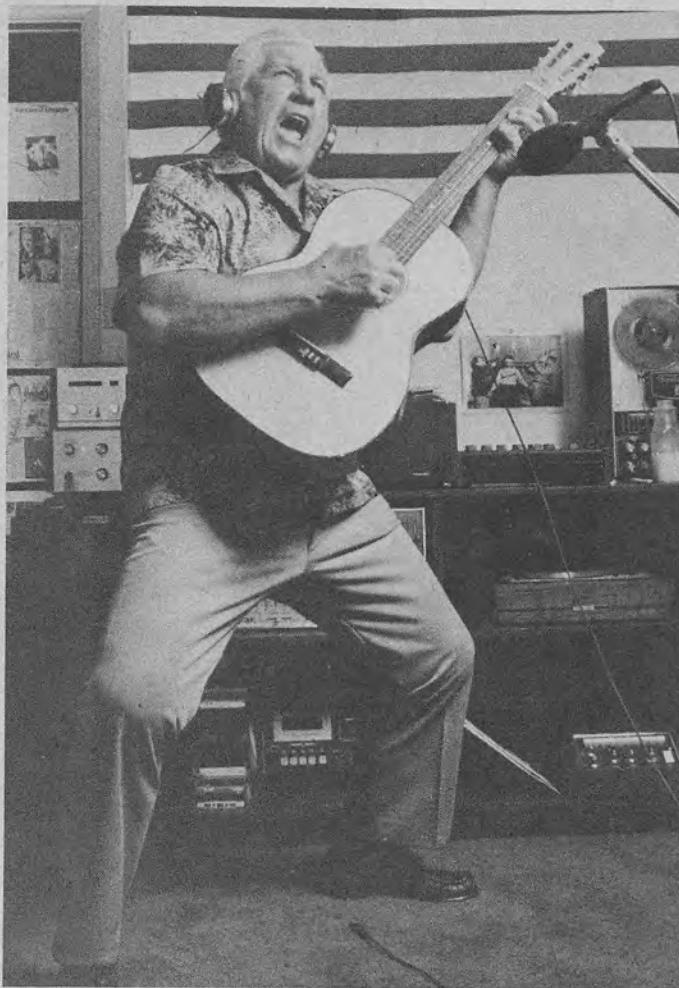
it out for the \$1,000. The two girls, though they had been through many rigorous and brutal brawls, showed no signs of fatigue. The excitement of being so close to the prize pumped the adrenalin through their bodies. Their strength and speed would not leave them until the match was over.

The battle the two girls had would have been great if no other action had preceded it. It was a wild brawl with both girls trying to flip the other over the ropes. Finally, Sue Green decided on a do-or-die maneuver.

Using her powerful body as a battering ram, she raced across the ring in an attempt to barrel Vicki over the ropes. But Vicki timed her opponent's run perfectly. And using Sue's momentum, she flipped her over the ropes.

So Vicki was handed the \$1,000 check, money she more than earned. And the fans learned once again that girls' wrestling can provide some of the most exciting matches anywhere! □

FRED BLASSIE--



RECORDING STAR!

Freddie Blassie now envisions himself as a recording star. How successful can this man be if he has a voice even a mother can't love? Can Freddie cheat his way to the top of the music business like he cheated his way to the top of wrestling?

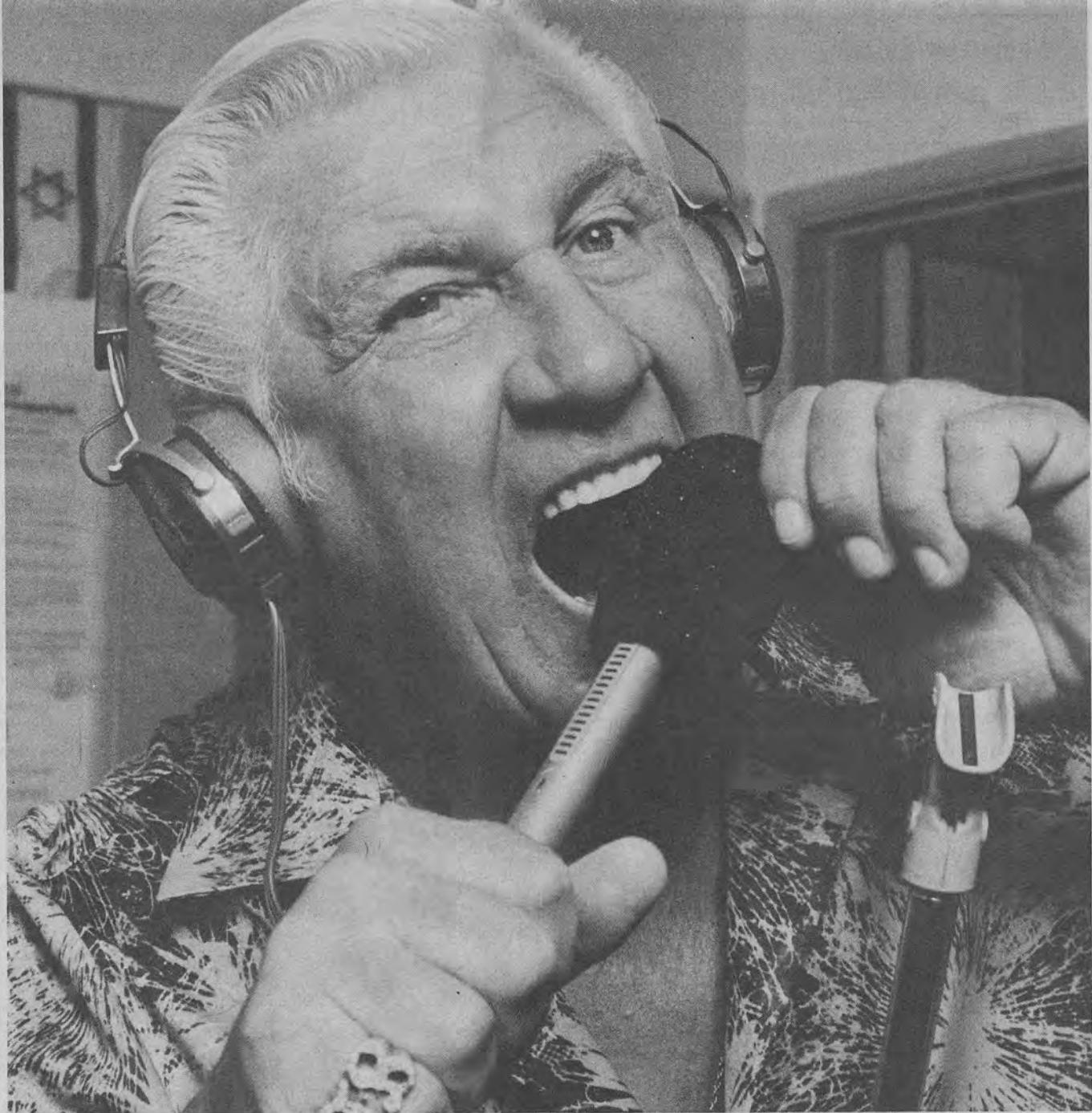
THOUGH HIS VOICE sounds like a vulture who smokes too much, Freddie Blassie has decided to become a recording star. If Blassie is successful, the sale of earmuffs may double.

Music is a stranger to most of Blassie's singing, which actually

sounds more like snarling, shouting, and yowling. He attacks a lyric like he attacks an opponent—he tries to make it battered and bloody. No song is safe from a Blassie interpretation.

But to prove there's no accounting for taste, Freddie has

actually been signed to a recording contract. Some record company wants to immortalize his voice on an album of original songs (rumor has it that no reputable composer would sell Freddie the rights to a popular hit). It's not known whether Blassie wrote the songs himself, but no one



During an argument with the recording engineer, Blassie bites on the microphone and then threatens "That's what'll happen to your head if you don't do things my way!" Freddie is not the easiest guy to work with in a studio. He's a perfectionist and egotist!

else is running to take the credit. After all, who wants to be known as a writer of hate songs?

Yes, sad to report, though music soothes the savage beast, it has yet to work its charm on Blassie. There have been pleasanter massacres than a Blassie recording session. Though the mistakes are often his fault (many of which he has suffered from birth), Freddie insists on insulting the technicians and musicians.

"You pencil-neck geek!" he screams at a violinist for no discernable reason. "You're trying

to sabotage me. I knew it the moment I saw you! I'm going to break that violin over your head!"

Though the violinist is slight, he stands firm and says with quiet ferocity, "This is a beautiful instrument. It took me years of hard work to get it. If you so much as touch it, I'll kill you."

Blassie took one look at the young man's blazing eyes and shouted, "It's a pity you worked so hard for something you can't play!" However, Freddie doesn't go after the violin.

Everyone in the room feels

Blassie's incredible wrath. It's a miracle they don't try to ruin his record for revenge. Yet, they're all professionals and they do the best they can with their limited star.

After a song is recorded, the tape is played back. Blassie listens in rapt ecstasy. There is no happier man on earth. Everyone else hopes they won't get sick.

"Have you ever heard anything so beautiful in your entire lives?!" Blassie screams with delight. "I am incredible. Even with lousy technicians, wretched musicians,

(Continued on page 60)

Every so often a wrestler shows an opponent mercy. Jim Brunzell has joined that all-too-short list of compassionate mat stars

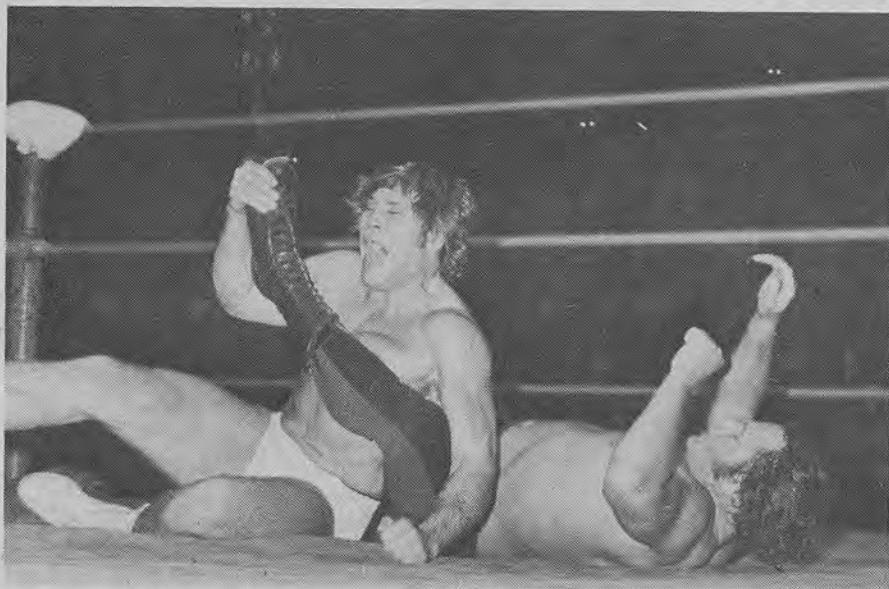
PHOTOS BY

TERRANCE MACHALEK

SCREAMS OF ANGUISHED terror filled the arena. Horst Hoffman's leg was being twisted around the turnbuckle by Jim Brunzell. If the pressure continued, Hoffman's leg would snap like a dry twig. And Hoffman knew it!

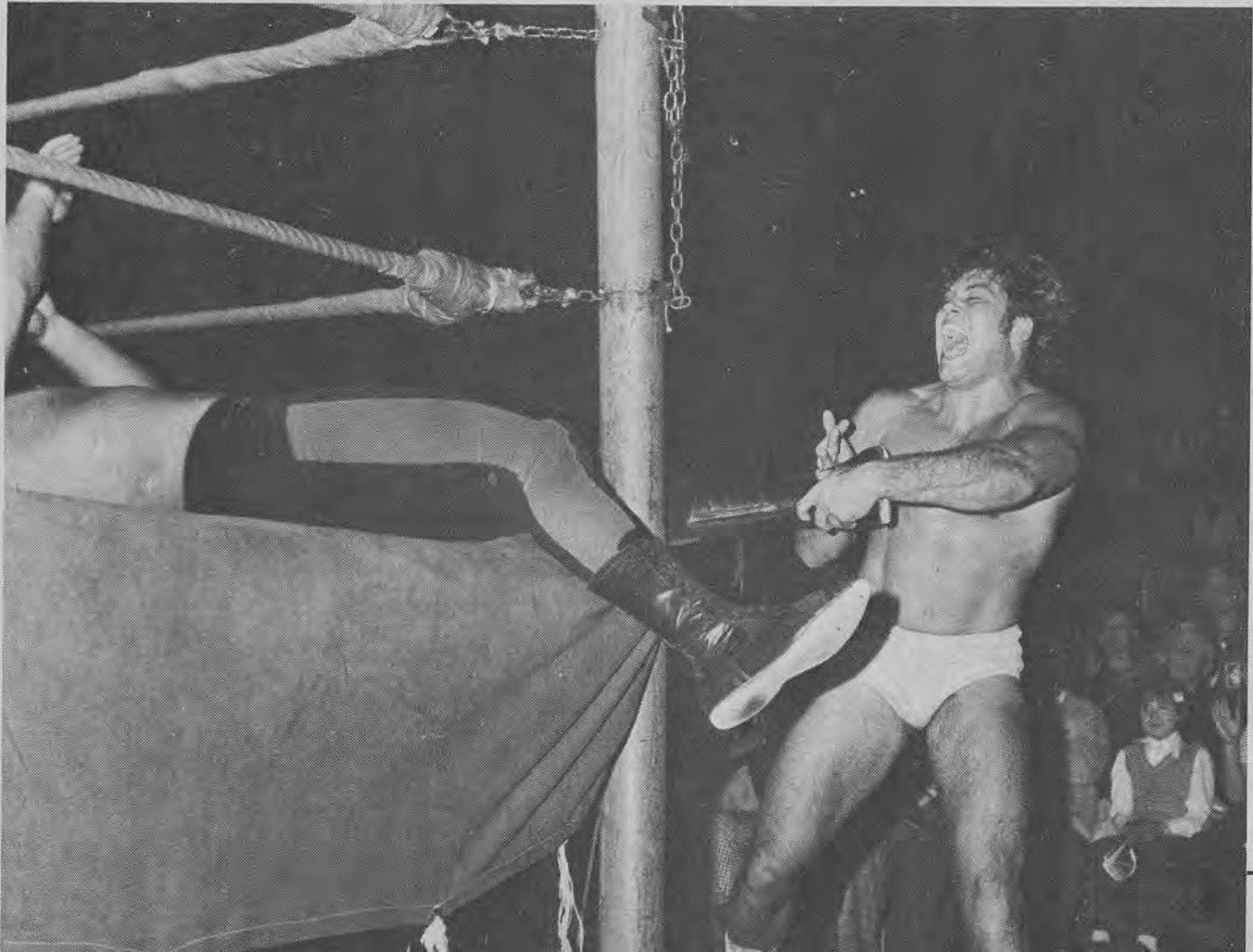
Horst's eyes filled with fear. While the German brawler wouldn't beg for mercy, his eyes pleaded for Brunzell to spare him. Hoffman was much too scared to realize how ridiculous his request must seem.

Before the match had even begun, Hoffman attacked Brunzell when the popular wrestler's back had been turned. When the stunned grappler crumpled to the canvas, Hoffman slammed his helpless victim's neck onto the rope. He then cruelly stomped his foot onto Jim's head. Brunzell gasped and gurgled as he fought to get air into his lungs.



Jim Brunzell goes all out to maim Horst Hoffman's leg (above and below) but will stop when the pain becomes unbearable for Hoffman. "I don't try to purposely cripple anyone," Jim says.

JIM COULD'VE BUSTED

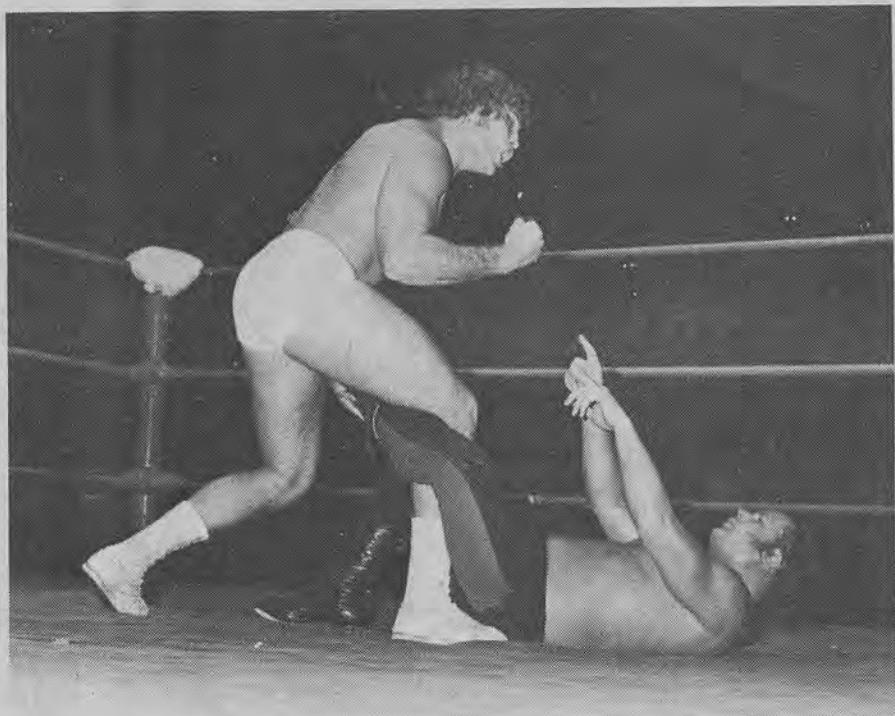


Before the referee could drag Hoffman off, Jim's neck was a burning red.

Brunzell's courage far exceeded his agony. The savage match continued. Consumed by rage, Jim went to work on his opponent. Hoffman found himself tortured by leglocks, overwhelmed by a perfectly executed leg scissors, and decked by forearm smashes. After 15 minutes of this vengeful massacre, Hoffman desperately hurled Brunzell over the ropes.

Then Hoffman tried to flee to the sanctuary of his dressing room. He swung his legs under the bottom rope but got no further. Jim grabbed Horst's right leg and began to twist it around the steel turnbuckle. If Brunzell kept applying pressure, Hoffman's leg would break. And then, to everyone's shock and Hoffman's relief, Brunzell released the leg and leaped over the ropes. Hoffman took no chances of Jim changing his mind. The German scurried back to the dressing room.

Later, in Jim's dressing room, the



Jim clenches his fist and threatens to belt Horst in the face if he doesn't swear he'll never break rules again (above). The German terror refused and got a fist planted on his jaw.

D HOFFMAN'S LEG – BUT HE DIDN'T!

mat star told why he allowed Hoffman to escape with all bones intact.

"An injury to a wrestler," Jim explains, "is like taking money from his pocket. If I'd broken Hoffman's leg, like he would have broken mine in the same situation, the guy couldn't earn his living for a couple of months. You've really got to hate a guy deeply to do that to him. I don't hate anyone that much."

Jim smiled as he concluded, "Of course, with a guy like Hoffman, I could probably learn to hate him more than I do now."

As for Hoffman, terror had been replaced by bluster two days later, the first time since the bout he'd allow anyone to see him.

"Nobody wants to make Horst Hoffman his enemy!" he contended. "Brunzell could have broken my leg

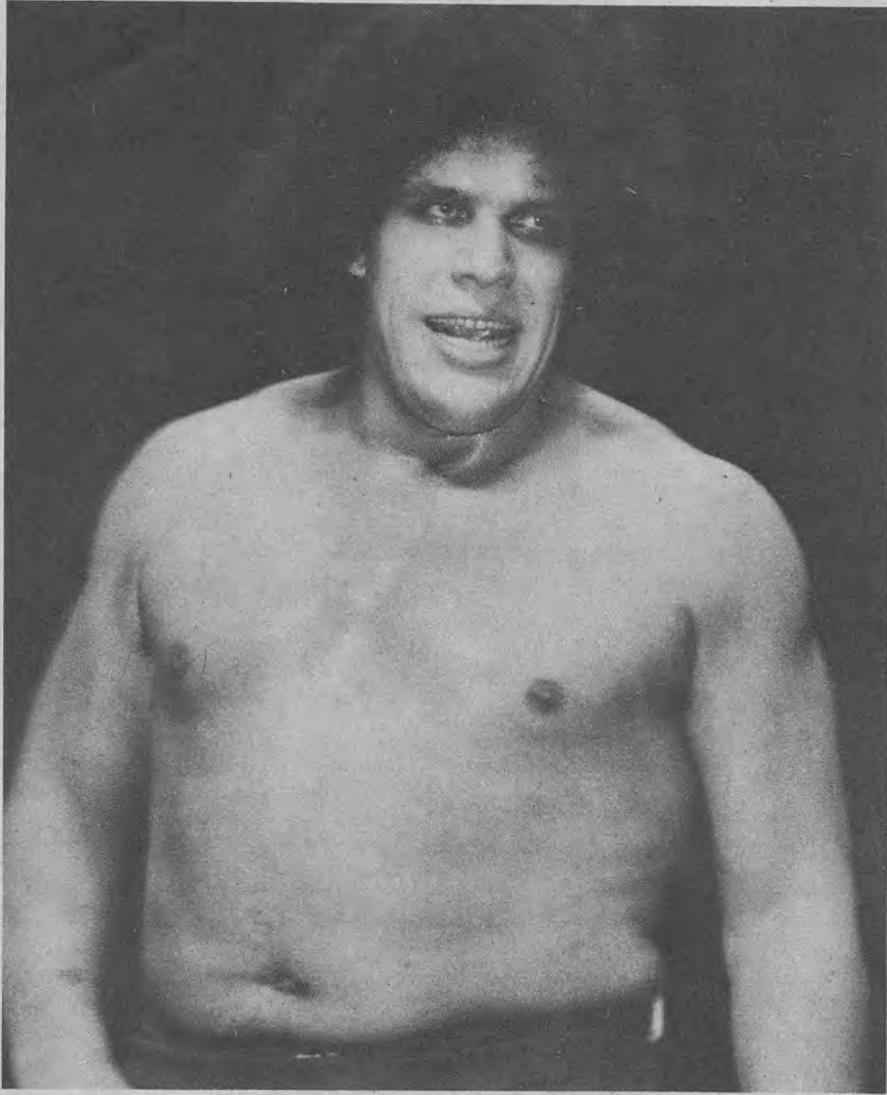
Jim locks Horst in a spinning toehold and prepares to torture Horst further (right). Jim's fans wanted him to bust Hoffman's leg but the scientific rookie flatly refused to do so. They hope Jim will change his views in the future.



if he had tried. He let the leg free so he wouldn't break it and make me his enemy. Like all thinking men, Brunzell is terrified of me, the greatest wrestler to ever come from Germany, home of the world's

greatest wrestlers. Releasing my leg proved Jim Brunzell is a coward!"

Hoffman's statements don't bother Brunzell. He doesn't hate the German that much. Yet. □



Andre the Giant (left) may be jeopardizing the fans' love and colleagues' respect by the use of roughhouse tactics. A knee in the groin cannot be forgiven, even against a man like savage Ernie Ladd (right, opposite page). Is Andre on the way to betraying his fans?

WHAT TURNED ANDRE THE GIANT INTO

ANDRE THE KILLER?

WHEN BETRAYED BY a close friend, one tends to forgive and forget . . . the first time. The more it happens, the harder it is to ignore. When the friend reveals himself changed beyond recognition, it's time to say goodbye if one is lucky. If unlucky, be on guard for a new dangerous enemy.

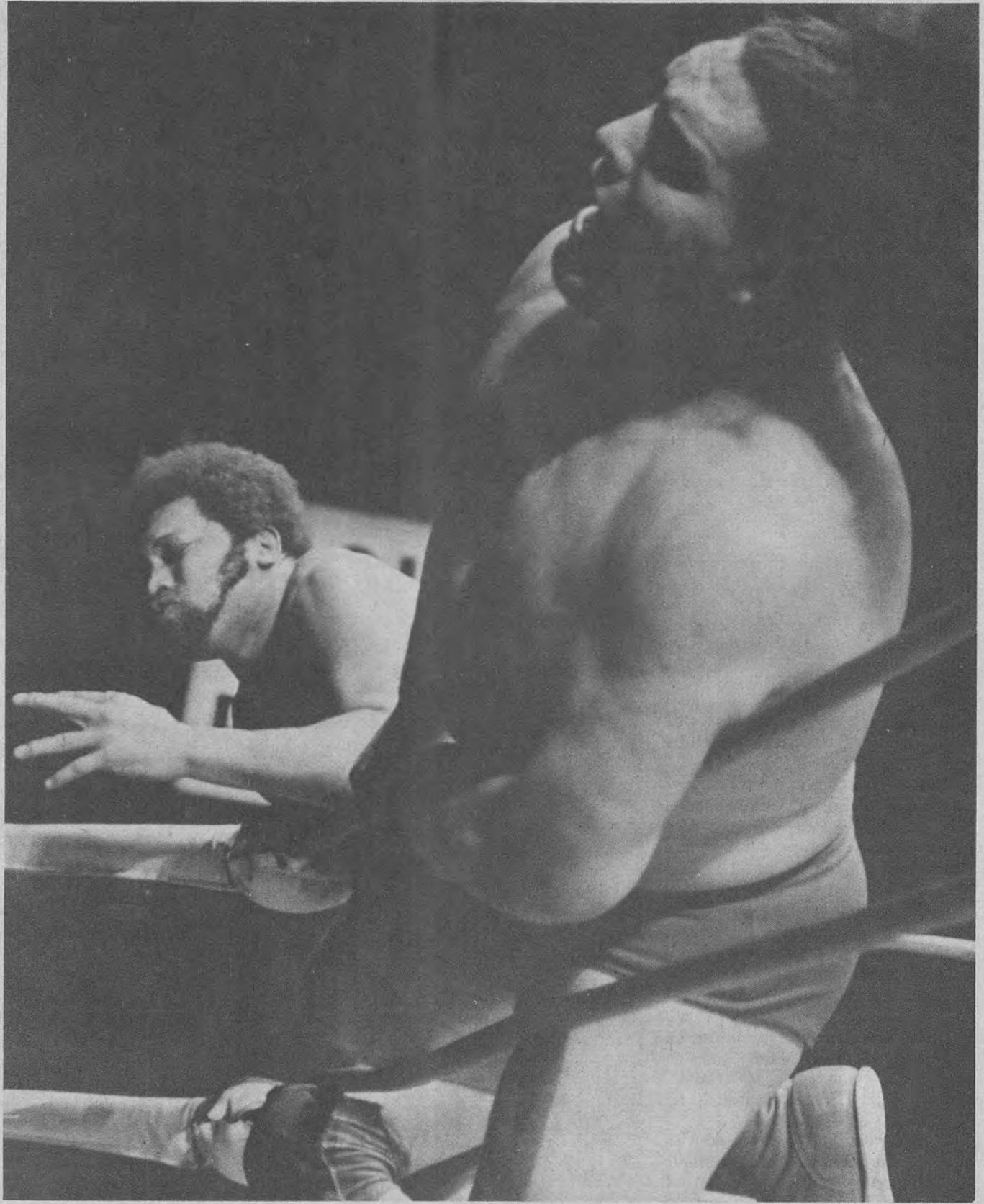
People are now forgiving and forgetting about Andre the Giant's recent matches. They've revealed a new Andre; at least a side once kept under control. The popular mat star

has become reckless, and that leads to cruelty. There's an ugly viciousness present in his bouts lately, matches disgracing principles Andre once cherished.

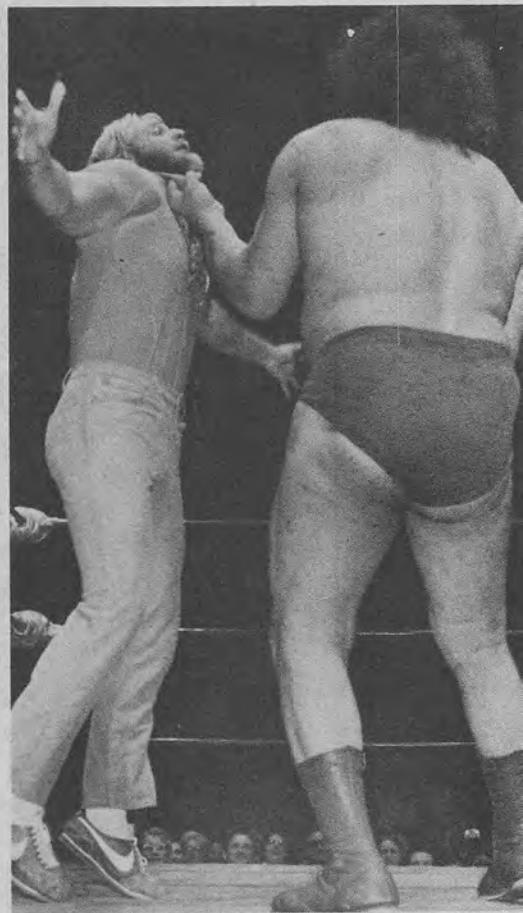
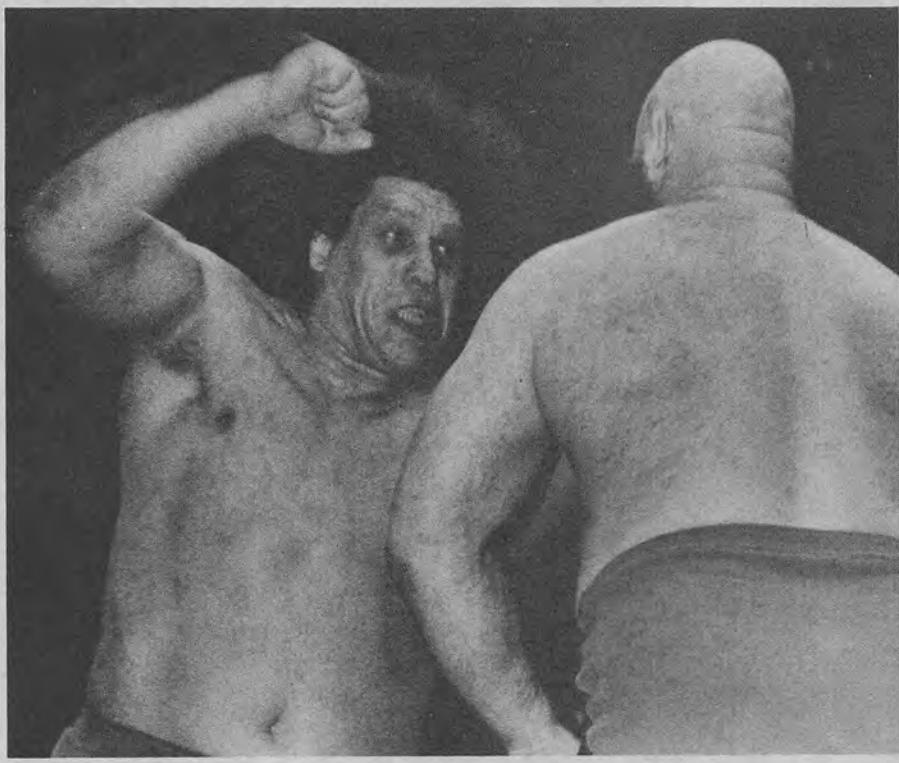
What can account for this change? Most wrestlers don't want to take public notice of the situation; comments on Andre are invariably off-the-record. Yet, they are talking and worrying, as are promoters and referees. No one knows what to expect from Andre the Giant. At the base of all the speculation is a cold fear.

It doesn't take an active imagination to think of what havoc Andre is capable of wreaking. A man that size aligning himself with the moral dregs of the sport, could end the careers of many great athletes. Death could hang over arenas like a pall. The crowds flocking to these matches wouldn't want wrestling; tickets would be bought with blood money.

No one can deny Andre's last matches have been savage displays of wrestling ferocity. Four opponents have required hospitalization. Even



The dark side of Andre the Giant's personality is being revealed in a series of devastatingly brutal matches. Is this the beginning of the Giant's reign of terror? Or is it a cry from a man pleading for understanding?



Above: A raging Andre smashes his fist into Bugsy McGraw's face, opening a wound that took five stitches to close. Right: Andre tries to choke Steve Strong senseless even though the man begs for mercy. Below: Andre uses all his might to smash away at the helplessly pinioned Ox Baker, ruthlessly punishing his opponent.

though Andre was battling back in self-defense against four cruel rulebreakers, his viciousness was surprising for the usually friendly giant.

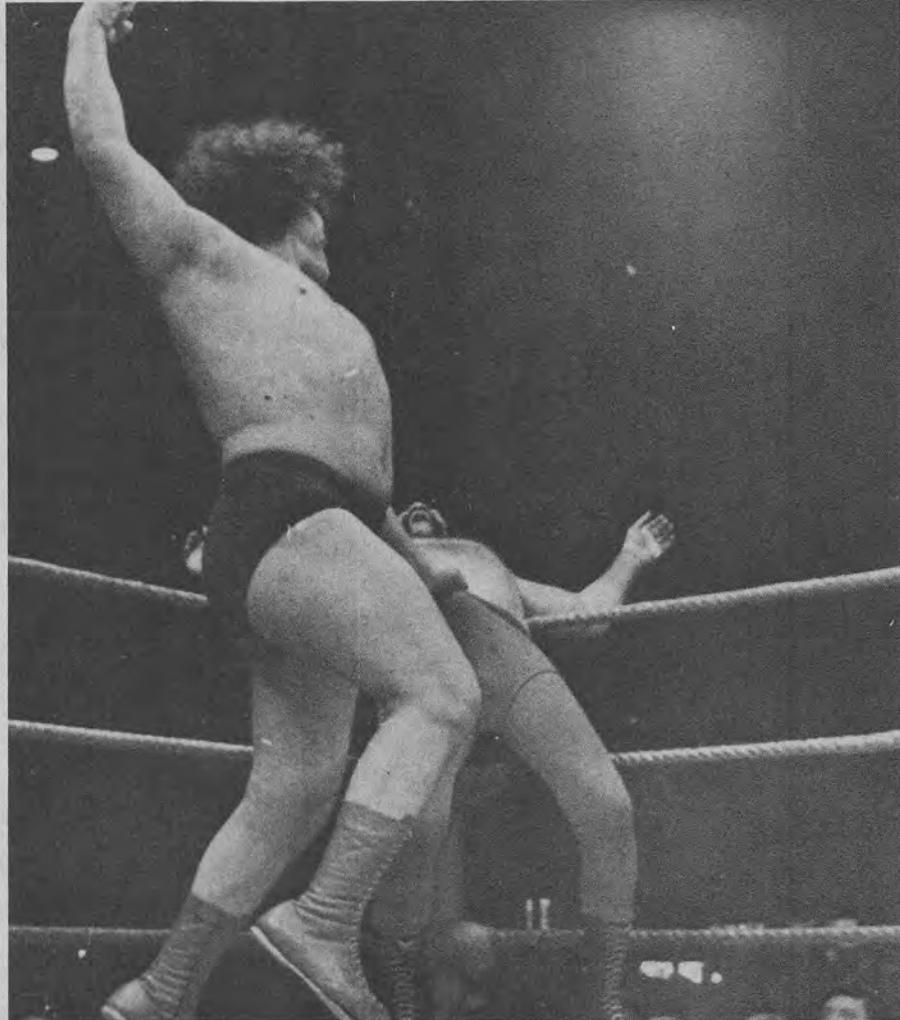
There have been many rumors circulating to explain Andre's sudden fury. Many blame the difficulty of a tempestuous romance. A woman Andre met on the set of "The Six-Million Dollar Man" has been making his life miserable, trying to take him away from wrestling and towards acting. Andre's anger and confusion is being released against his opponents.

"I'm my own man," Andre answers to these charges, "and a professional. I'm always in control of my emotions. What happens to me personally has no influence on what happens in the arena. Whatever may be going through my brain won't change how I wrestle."

"I'm not romantically involved with anyone. The press has taken a simple friendship and blown it all out of proportion. No woman is influencing my life or my profession."

Andre is willing to deny most speculation but refuses to answer why his style has changed so brutally. Usually, Andre is more than helpful to the press. Today, he's shrinking away from contact with anyone.

An interview with Andre, once a
(Continued on page 62)



**Special
Fan
Ballot:**

YOU DECIDE WHICH WRESTLERS MUST BE BANNED!

THE TIME HAS finally come for the fans to speak out! The promoters are finally willing to listen.

In what has to be the most comprehensive survey ever organized by professional wrestling and the press, the fans are finally going to get a chance to influence the sport they support. Here, for the first time, is the opportunity for fans to actually influence the banning of wrestlers!

At the end of this section is an historic ballot. There will be a list of wrestlers most often named by fans as hated rulebreakers. By filling out and sending in this ballot, you will have a direct influence on the future of these men!

The promoters will receive the results of this poll—and they will act on it! Those wrestlers most mentioned will be threatened with expulsion or outright banned, depending on the area. Some promoters feel this is the only way to get the sport free of its current reign of terror.

The promoters will study the ballots carefully. The names on it were suggested by the 10 most successful promoters in the country, compiled from letters they received from fans. In this way, we



THE SHEIK



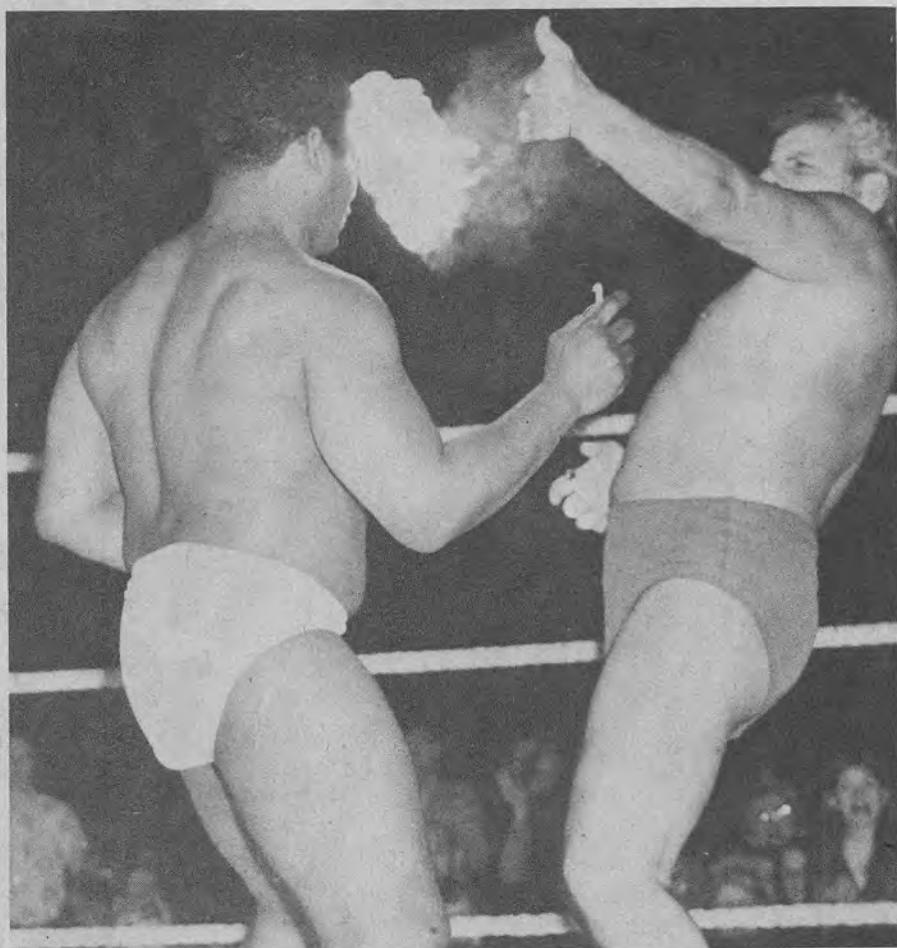
Sheik's face (above) is known and despised throughout the world. It excites hatred and fear in wrestlers everywhere.

THERE IS PROBABLY no villain as hated as The Sheik. And it's a reputation he has more than earned.

The Sheik has sent more wrestlers to the hospital than any other two wrestlers combined. His tactic of throwing fire during a match has caused some of the greatest wrestlers of our time to suffer second, and in some cases even third degree burns.

Sheik's favorite submission hold—the Camel Clutch—is responsible for breaking the necks of at least 13 grapplers. Many superstars have seen their careers suddenly tailspin after a ferocious encounter with this mad Arab.

Although he is descended from a royal family, Sheik knows nothing about either fair play or mercy. He has never given anyone a break.



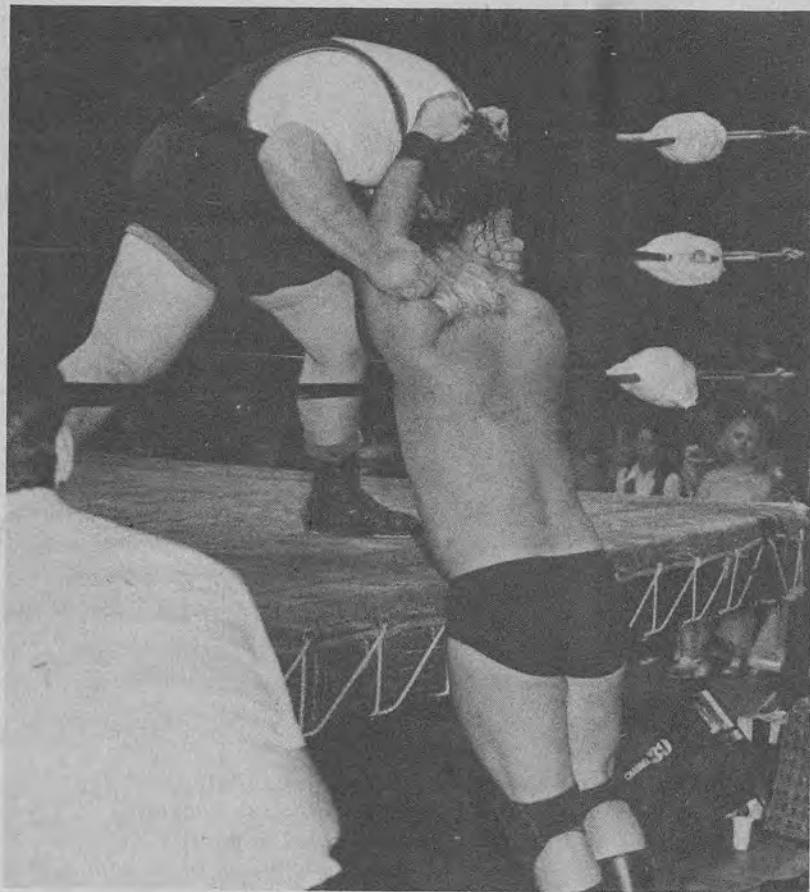
Most people agree the most heinous action in wrestling is when Sheik hurls flames into an opponent's face, as he did to helpless Edouard Ethifier (above). Yet, Sheik can cheat in many ways, as he proves by smashing a chair into Jerry Lawler's face (below).



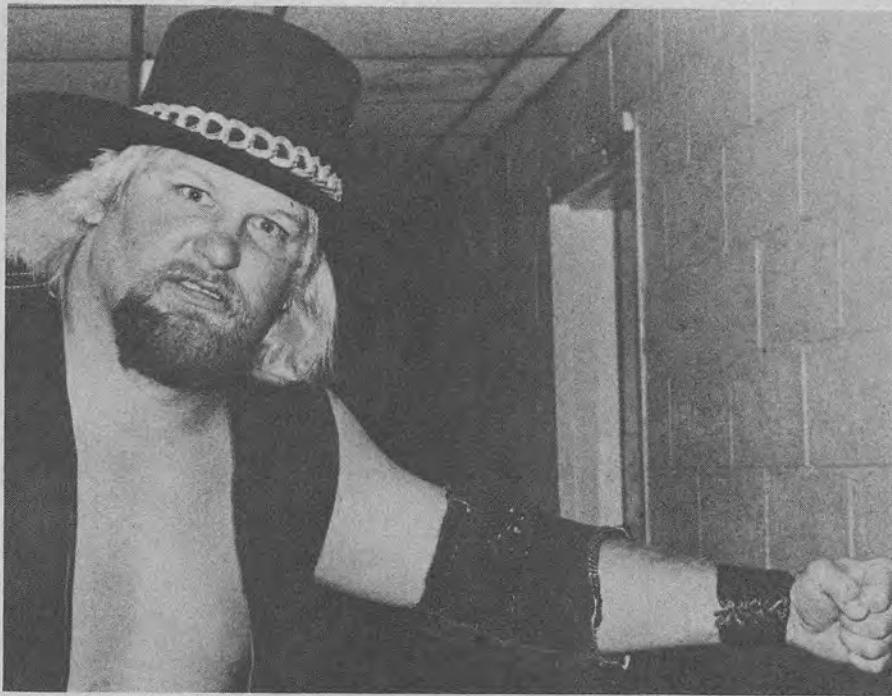
He himself, through his interpreter, has admitted he would rather cripple an opponent than win.

Standing 6-4 and weighing over 270 pounds, The Sheik is a very powerful, very dangerous wrestler. □

STAN HANSEN



Above: Stan Hansen almost yanks Chris Taylor out of the ring in one of their many wild encounters. Above right: Seeing Ivan Putski is hurt, Hansen cruelly stomps and kicks his fallen foe, typical of Hansen's sense of sportsmanship. Below: Hansen holds his arms out, demonstrating how he smashes opponents' with the evil lariat. This is the maneuver that broke Bruno Sammartino's neck!



THE Wrestling Community held its breath when Bruno Sammartino suffered a broken neck at the hands of

Stan Hansen. Then, Ivan Putski almost suffered a similar fate, the victim of Hansen's dreaded Lariat

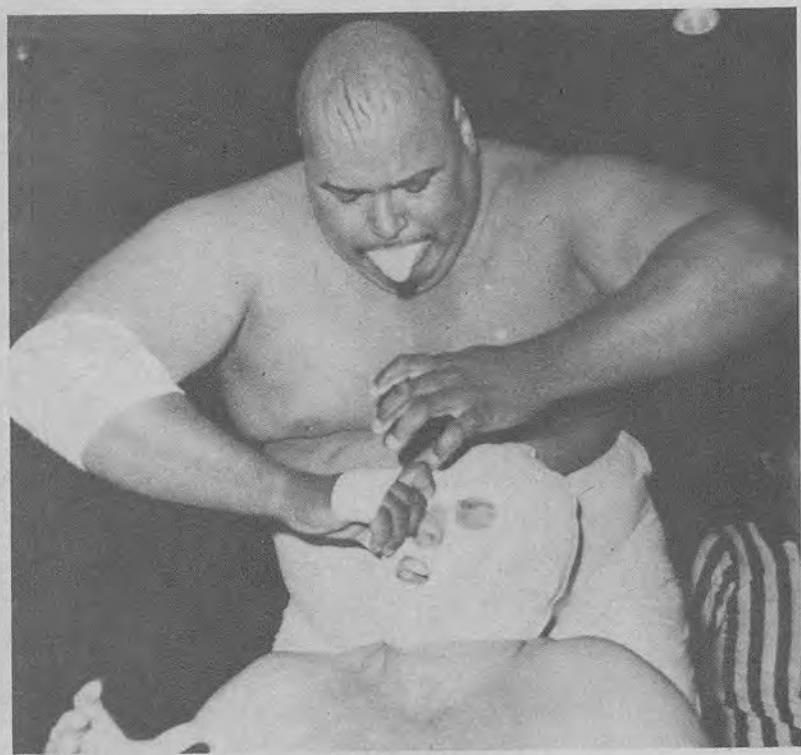
maneuver.

Most people agree Hansen uses a steel-plated elbowpad to execute the Lariat, slamming his opponent in the throat with the elbowpad. The neck snaps back, with breakage a strong probability. Hansen uses this illegal, ugly maneuver whenever he can, not caring about the tragic consequences.

This would be enough to call for the banning of any man, but Hansen is capable of much, much more. The many moves he has mastered are capable of crippling even the most skilled foe. As one might guess, Hansen doesn't hesitate to use anything necessary to gain an unearned victory.

Hansen is a man to be feared. He is a great athlete, but bears no relation to a sportsman. □

ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



THOSE WHO HAVE wrestled Abdullah the Butcher claim it is an experience unlike any other they have had in wrestling. "He's not a wrestler," says the respected Jack Brisco, "he's an animal!"

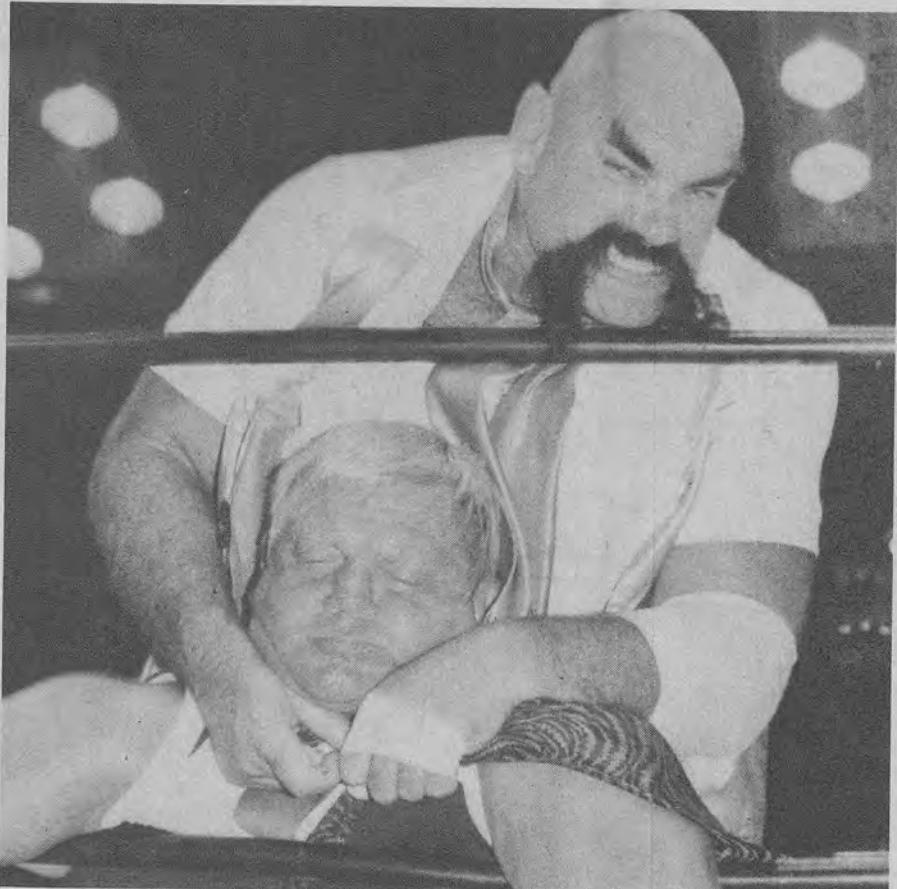
What makes Abdullah all the more dangerous is his crazed unpredictability in the ring. He wrestles with no set strategy in mind. He appears to want only the total destruction of his opponents.

To watch this man gloat after some poor wrestler is carried back to the dressing room on a stretcher is disgusting. This man truly receives joy from crippling his fellow athletes.

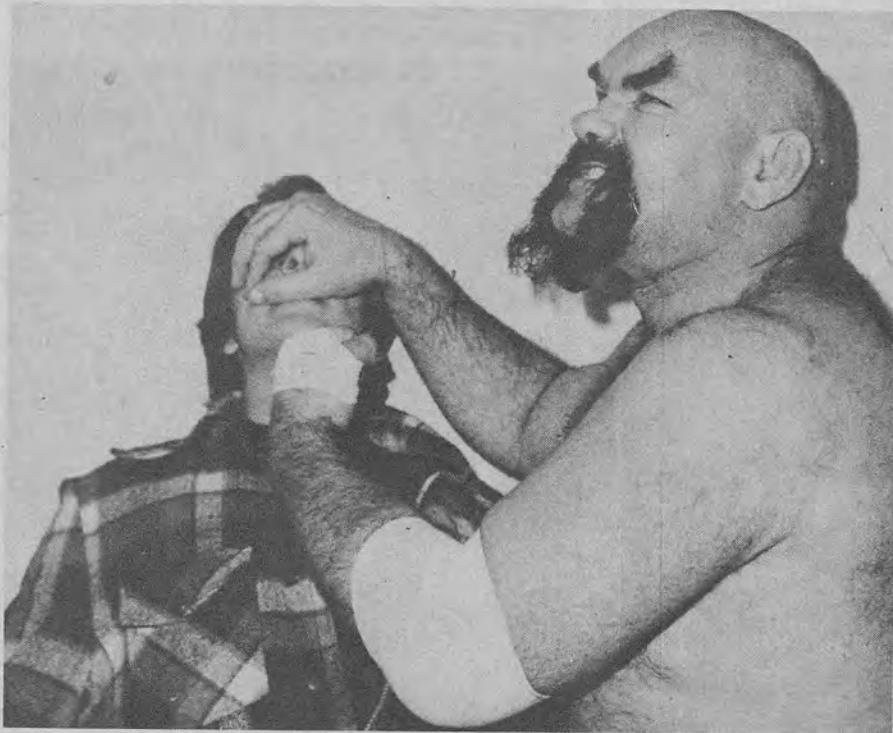
"Abdullah the Butcher should not be allowed in wrestling," claims the usually soft-spoken Tex McKenzie. "He should be confined to a mental institution!" It is up to the wrestling fan to decide Abdullah the Butcher's future. □

Abdullah the Butcher (above left) is one of the strangest men in wrestling. Mr. Wrestling learns this painful lesson when the crazed wrestler tries to gouge out the masked grappler's eye (above). Abdullah seems to be excited by the sight of an agonized foe's blood. Once he has Ted McKenzie bleeding, Abdullah keeps tearing away at the popular mat star's torn face and scalp (below).





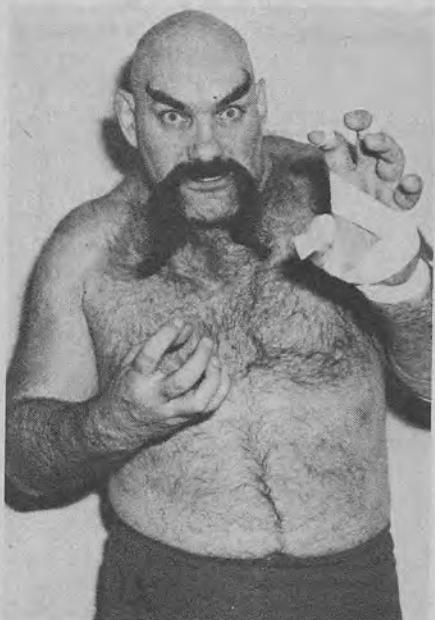
Above: Ox Baker comes close to choking the life out of Bruiser in a savage streetfight match. Baker delights in feeling Bruiser weaken into lifelessness. Below: Even reporters have reason to fear Baker. One fearless journalist went for an interview and wound up attacked by Baker for asking an embarrassing question.



ONE OF THE most hideous men in sport's history, Ox Baker is even meaner than he looks. Some men torture to win; Baker tortures to live.

Watching Ox wrestle is only for those with strong

OX BAKER



No one knows what weapon is hidden in Ox Baker's taped hand (above), but everyone knows of the massacres Baker commits!

stomachs. He's cruel by choice rather than necessity. He can be graceful if he so desires. He finds it easier to cripple and maim by using rough, illegal tactics rather than finely honed maneuvers. He could be great if he wished. He'd rather be vicious.

Wasting his talent would almost be enough to call for his expulsion; unfortunately, there are many more concrete reasons. He has ended the careers of many fine wrestlers; others have wasted months in hospitals. Baker brags about these slayings and continually tries to add more to his list. Any decent wrestler despises him.

If Baker isn't driven out of wrestling, respected athletes will continue to be crippled by his ruthless tactics. It's either them or him. □

BARON VON RASCHKE



No wrestling fan needs to be reminded of the many savage crimes committed by Baron Von Raschke. His record is a blight on the good name of the sport.

Most people are familiar with the many victims permanently injured by Von Raschke's clawhold. As devastating as this is, it tends to overshadow the many other ways Baron cripples and maims. The list of maneuvers Barons has developed to torture victims would cover many pages. This infamous repertoire has no place in wrestling.

It's doubtful anyone can remember a single decent action by Von Raschke. His history is a continuous record of slaughter without mercy. What he does has nothing to do with sport; his is the mind of a mercenary soldier.

Von Raschke is a veteran

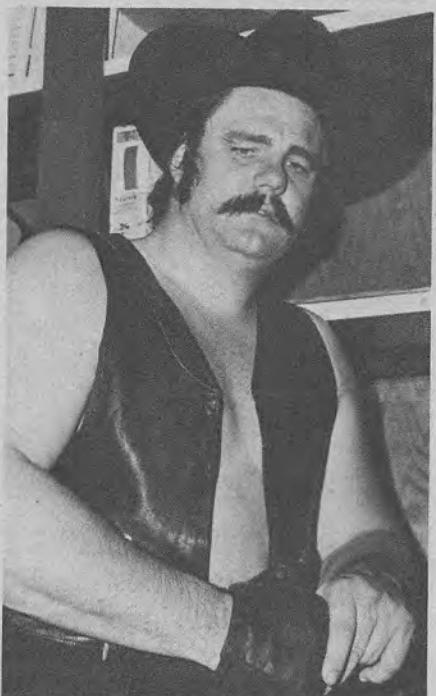
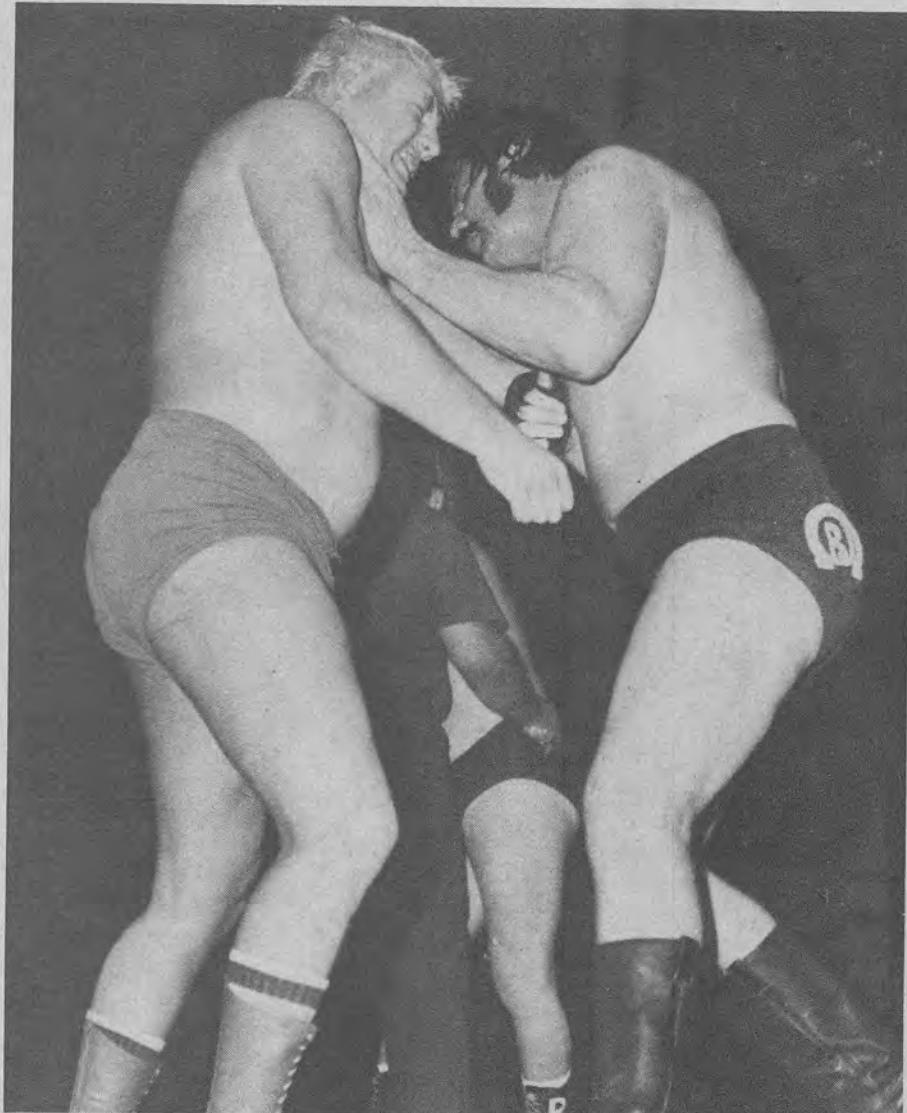


Sporting a cape emblazoned with a swastika, Baron Von Raschke declares his dedication to cruelty (above left). Billy Graham suffers Von Raschke's cruelty as the German gets a clawhold on his victim's already bloody face (above). When Graham falls to the canvas, Von Raschke continues the torture by stomping Billy in the face (below). This kind of unrelieved savagery is what a wrestler can expect when he grapples against the fearsome Baron.



who has never shown any ever bring honor to the signs of being anything sport. He is dangerous, other than despicable. There savage, merciless, and incapable of change. □

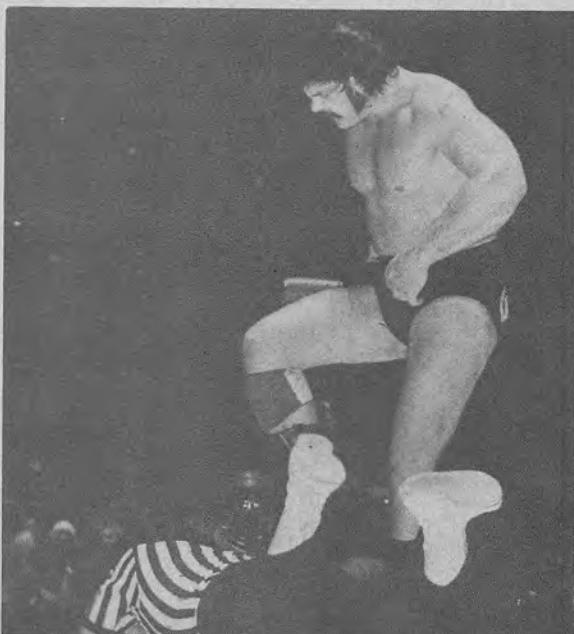
BLACKJACK MULLIGAN



Watch him as a victim writhes beneath its agony. No man could be happier, nor more despicable. Their pain makes him apply more pressure; screams drive him to new depths. He lives for their anguish, revels in his domination.

The clawhold isn't the only way Mulligan displays his savagery. His bouts are textbooks in what the honest wrestler should not do. He has mastered every dirty trick in the book and doesn't hesitate to use them. Stretchers are a common sight when he finishes with a foe. He can boast of many cripplings. Superb athletes have finished matches against him never being quite right again.

Blackjack Mulligan is a merciless grappler with a long history of cruelty. There is no reason for the fans to be merciful to him. □



Blackjack Mulligan (above right) can be equally savage as a tag team partner or on his own. Two good examples are his ugly choking of opponent Dick Murdoch while partner Ray Stevens distracts the referee (above) and his cruel stomping of a referee after disposing of his foe (left). There are hundreds of other examples illustrating Mulligan's ferocity.

IT TAKES A vile human being to brag about the torment he inflicts. Being

vile is what Blackjack Mulligan does best.

Many wrestlers torture with the clawhold; few can compare with Mulligan.

STAN STASIAK

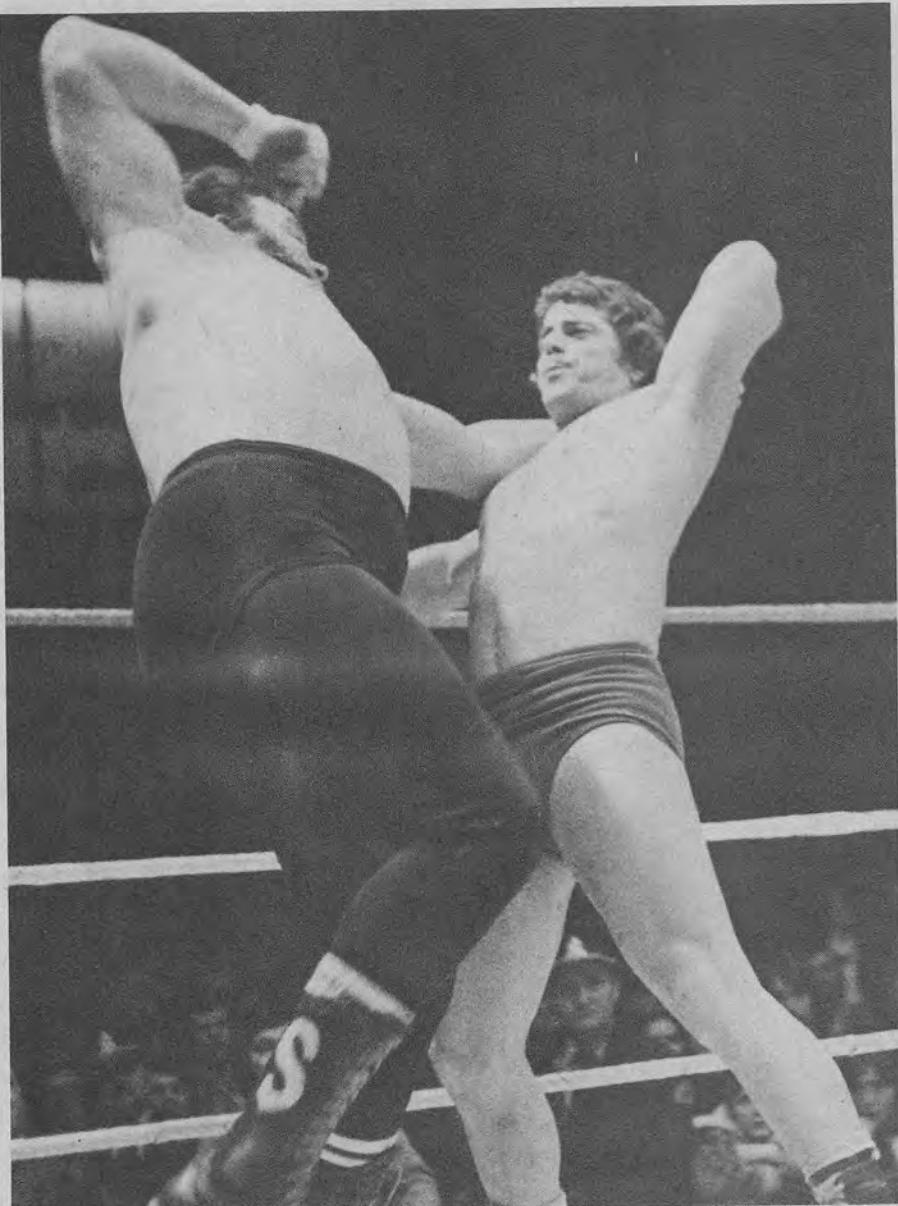


STAN STASIAK HOLDS many distinctions in the world of professional wrestling. Probably his greatest moment was when he took the WWWF title from Pedro Morales back in 1973. The fact that Stasiak cruelly cheated his way to victory meant nothing to this giant brawler from Oregon.

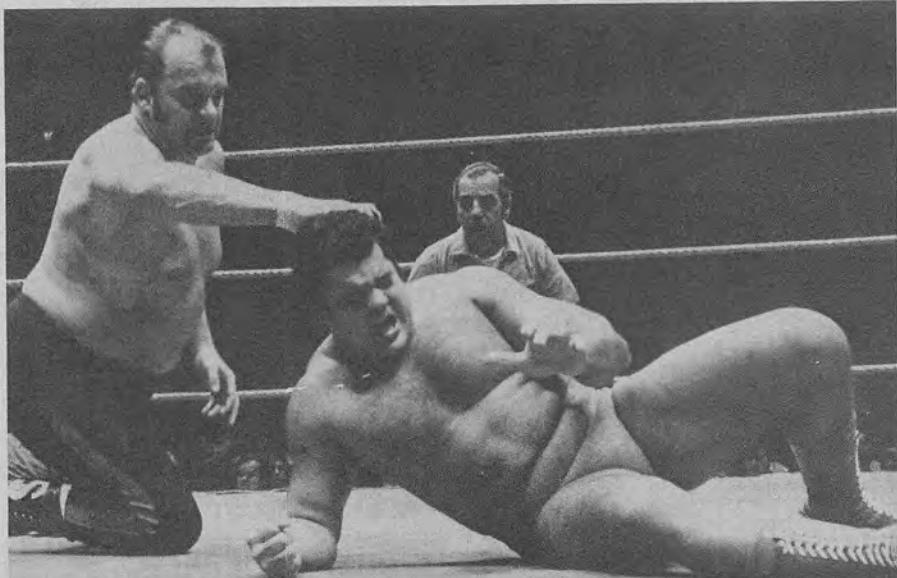
Stasiak's most famous maneuver is the Heart-punch. Although it has been illegal in many states, Stasiak still finds enough places to wrestle where it is allowed.

When Stasiak says, "No one has ever gotten up and finished a match after being hit with my heartpunch," he is not bragging—he is telling the truth. This maneuver is among the most brutal in all wrestling. In the hands of a ruthless killer like Stan Stasiak the tactic is all the more vicious.

Many scientific wrestlers have demanded Stasiak be banned from wrestling. Now you, the wrestling fan, can do something about it. □



Few men are as feared as Stan Stasiak (above left) Tony Garea's career was almost ended after he became the victim of a Stasiak heartpunch (above), one of the most dangerous tactics in wrestling. Pedro Morales knows Stasiak's roughhouse tactics (below); Pedro lost his WWWF title to Stasiak in 1973 in a classic encounter.



SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

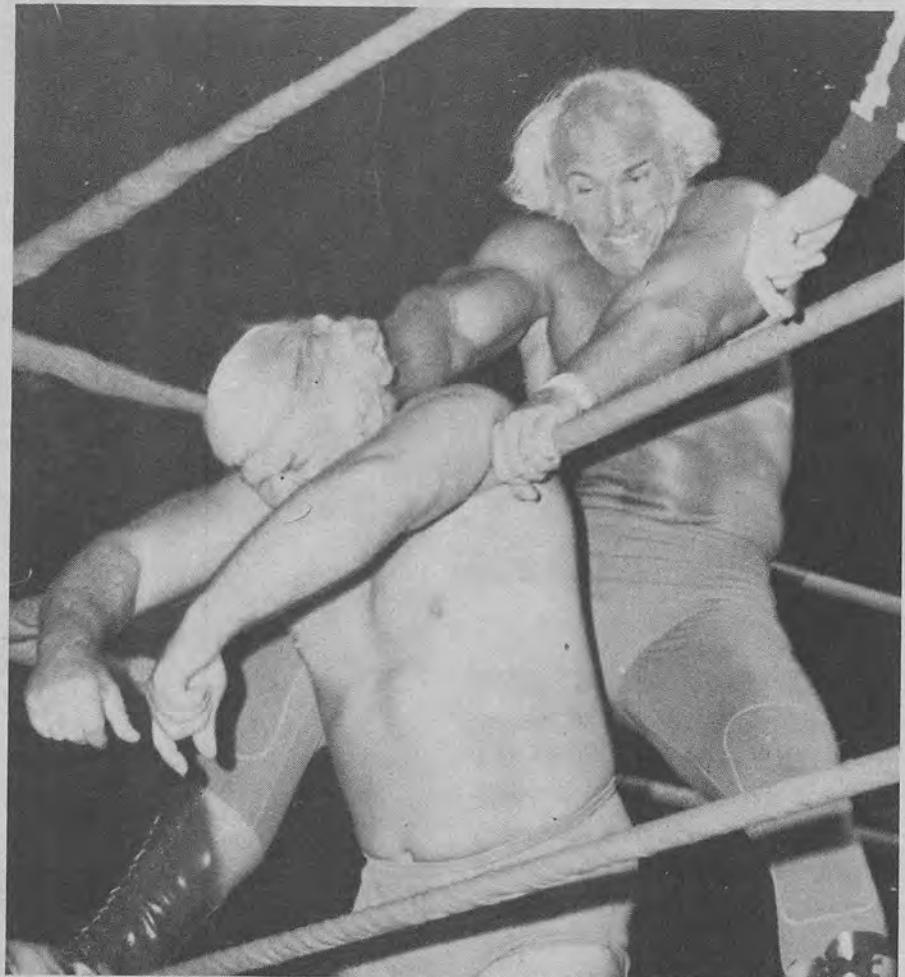


HE IS PERHAPS wrestling's most complex personality. Superstar Billy Graham has confounded fans throughout the years. Yet, looking over his whole record, one is struck by the instances of ugly violence.

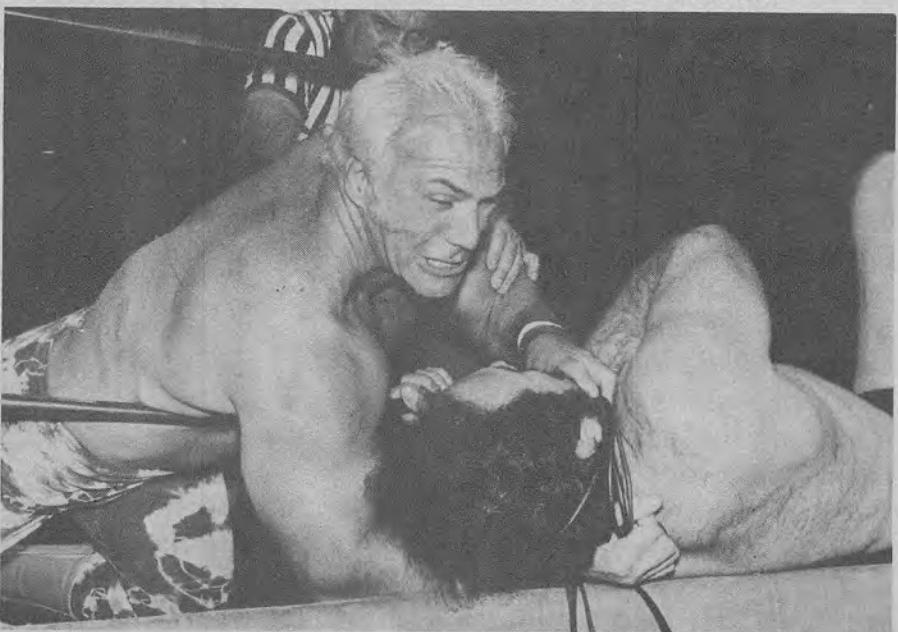
There are no depths to which Graham has yet to sink; he has wallowed in butchery. It was Graham who challenged Ken Patera to a weightlifting contest and when Ken had the weights high over his head, Billy kicked him in the groin. Patera could have been killed.

Graham's career is studded with similar instances, each more terrifying than the next. Granted, he has also done some things which demonstrate him to be a superb athlete. One could even make a case for him being a sportsman on rare occasions. Yet, his commonplace actions are a series of rulebreaking massacres.

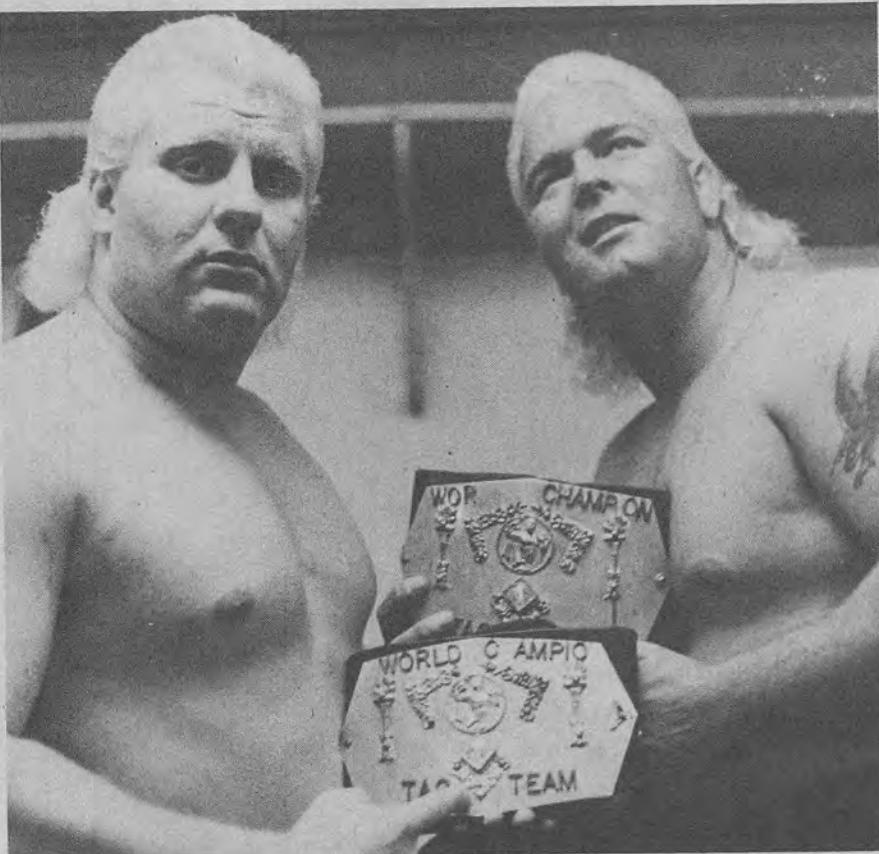
Many fans could argue that Graham should not be banned. To argue is a long way from convincing. However, the choice is yours. □



People either love or hate Billy "Superstar" Graham (above left). Crusher has every right to hate Graham, as Billy rubs the mat star's neck along the ring ropes (above). Another man who hates Graham is Blackjack Lanza after being choked with a microphone cord by Billy (below). Should a man like this be allowed to wrestle?



THE VALIANT BROTHERS

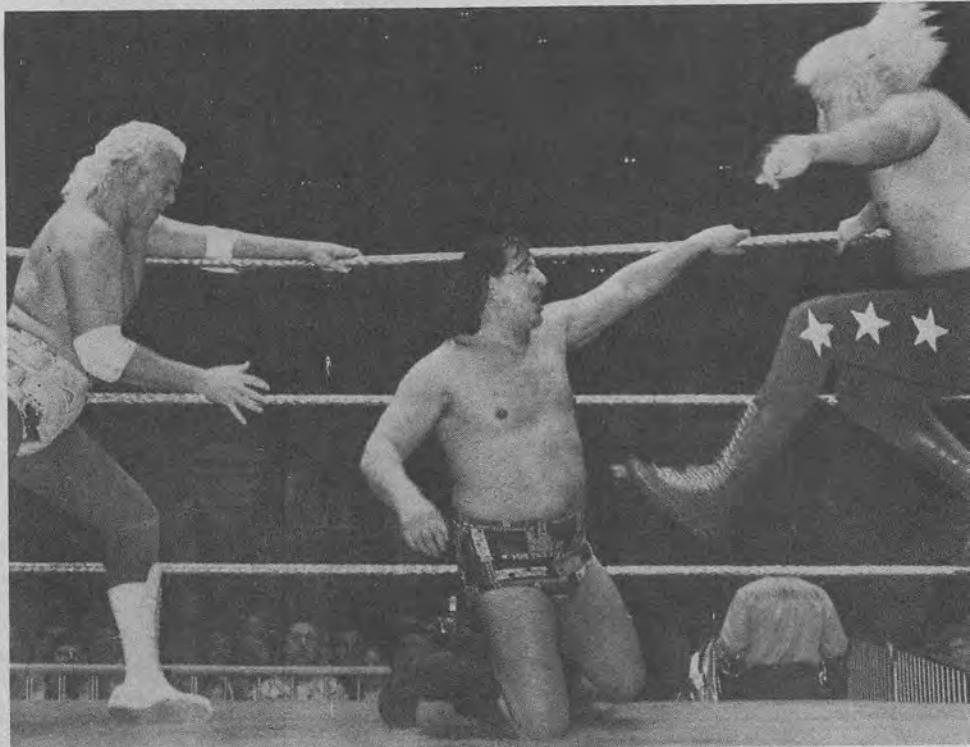


TAG TEAM WRESTLING has not been the same since the emergence of the Valiant Brothers on the grappling scene. Hated in every area in which they have ever wrestled, the brothers have nonetheless been able to win every tag team title they have gone after.

This team is despicable mainly because of the way they are able to doubleteam helpless opponents. In every match the brothers find some way to doubleteam and pummel one man while the poor victim's partner is refrained by the referee from entering the scrap. These brothers may be ruthless, but they are also very, very cunning. This evil combination of ruthlessness and cunning makes them the most dangerous tag team in wrestling today.

Both brothers stand well over six feet tall: Jim is 6-3 and weighs 275 pounds.

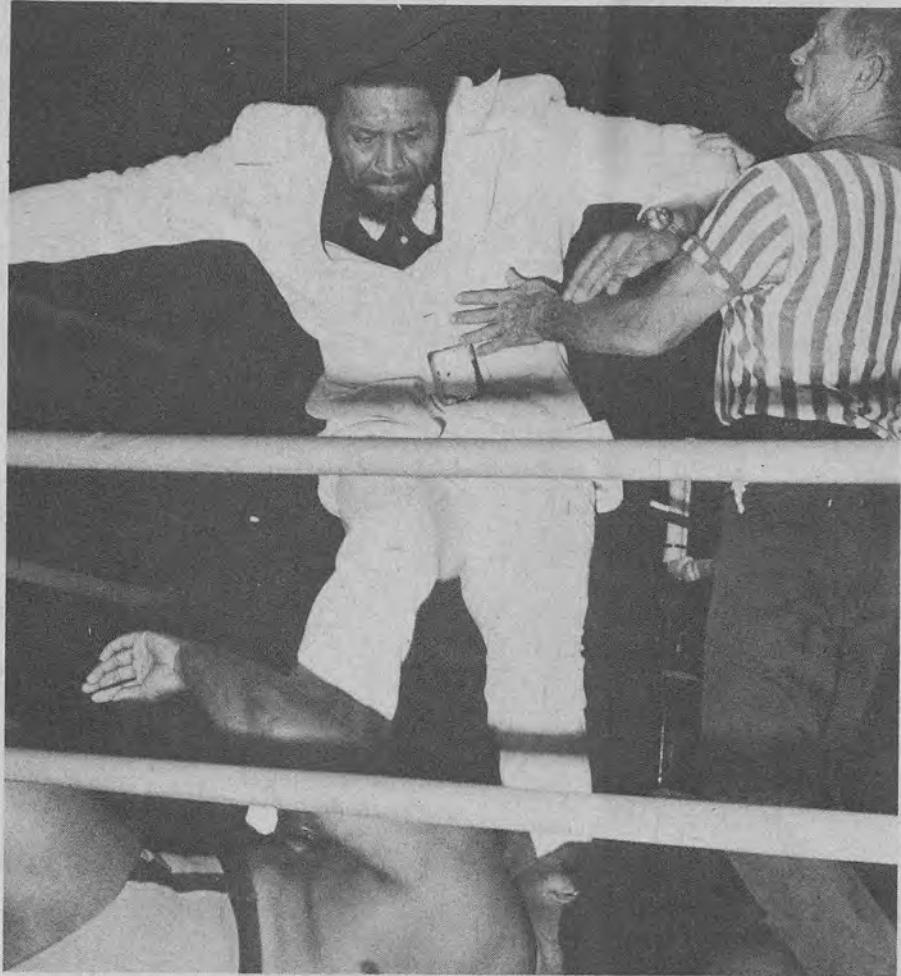
The Valiants are hated for doubleteaming tactics; Billy Red Cloud is one of the many victims (above left). Their rulebreaking tactics have earned the Valiants tag team title after title (above). Even the greatest wrestlers in the world are often powerless to stop this ruthless pair; Chief Jay Strongbow knows this as well as he knows the pain these men inflict (below). Should they be banned?



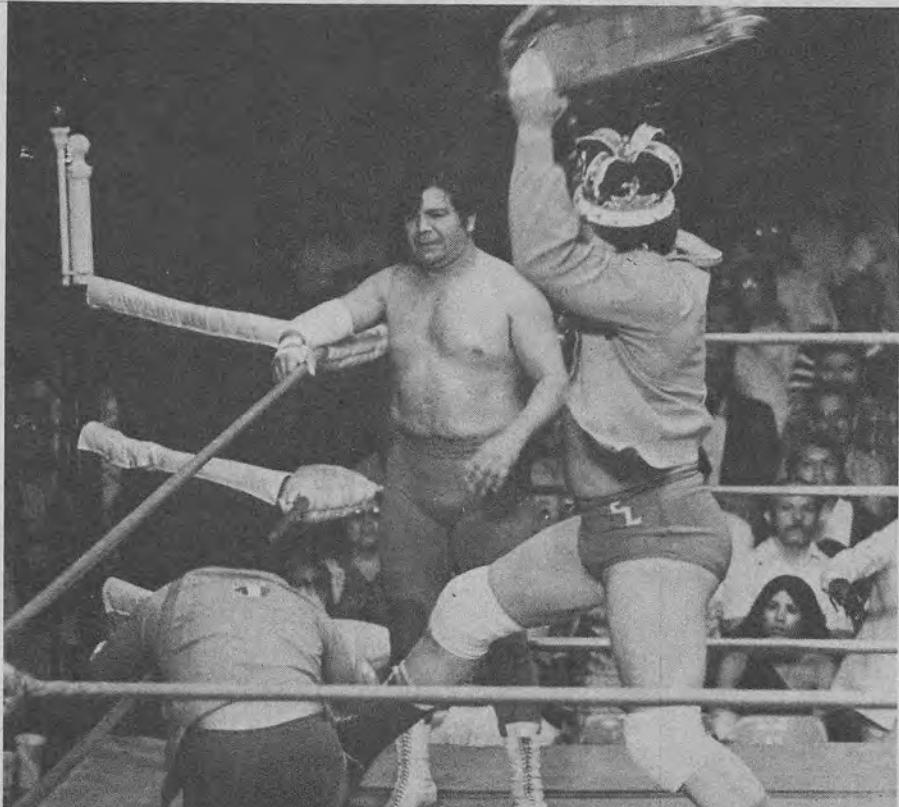
Brother John stands 6-4 and weighs 290 pounds. Rarely, if ever, has such a combination of size and intelligence

been found in tag team wrestling. These blond brothers are as hated as they are successful. □

ERNIE LADD



Ernie Ladd (above right) is one of the most confusing men in the sport. Ladd has a reputation for sneak attacks; Rick Robinson barely survives the one intended for him (above). No one will ever forget Ernie's attack on Chavo Guerrero (below), one of the most notorious beatings ever inflicted on an unwary opponent.



THREE ARE TIMES when Ernie Ladd can be a great sportsman; there are times when he's a ruthless mauler. Does one make up for the other? This is for you, the fan, to decide.

It doesn't take much to turn Ladd from dignified athlete to reprehensible rule-breaker. Sneak-attacks are his stock in trade when he fears or hates an opponent. Ladd's need for revenge is his driving force; all other considerations are secondary. To cross him is to earn an enemy who knows no restraint.

In his quest for blood, Ladd has committed some of the most outrageous actions ever witnessed. There is no excuse for any of them. The consequences have been dire. Careers have been destroyed and bodies ruined. Ladd has never shown the slightest remorse for these occurrences.

Ernie Ladd has proven himself great. He has also proven himself despicable. □

MANAGERS



NO GROUP OF people is as disreputable as most wrestling managers. They are the most ruthless rulebreakers in the history of any sport.

Magazines could be filled with tales of managers interfering, passing foreign objects, and distracting referees. The infamous actions of Gary Hart, George Cannon, Lou Albano, Grand Wizard, Bobby Heenan and others are known to all wrestling fans. Often, these men take decent athletes and turn them into killers, obsessed by victory and knowing no limits. The list of fine athletes fallen to those managers is sorrowfully long.

Many believe managers should be banned from all arenas. Their presence is a sure sign of ruthless intention. Honest grapplers must not only battle a usually reprehensible foe, but must also be wary of managerial interference. This is absurd, an insult to the sport.

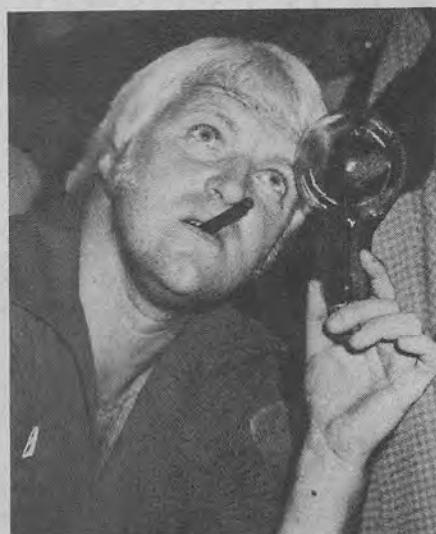
There are a few honest managers, those who give only advice during a match.



Few men in wrestling are as feared as Gary Hart (above). A man equally despised by the decent athletes in wrestling is hated Grand Wizard (below).



Lou Albano (above left), hated George Cannon (above), and the notorious Bobby Heenan (below), are three men many think have no place in a wrestling arena.



Their jobs are done in offices, mapping strategies and devising maneuvers. They would not be hampered by having to watch the match on closed-circuit television in the dressing rooms. Only the rulebreakers would suffer from the ban.

Managers are the most controversial people in wrestling. Is there a place for them in the sport's arenas? You decide! □

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- Eddie Creachman
- Jim Dillon
- Dave Drasin
- Gary Hart
- Bobby Heenan
- Billy Hines
- Sir Oliver Humperdink
- Rock Hunter
- Beau James
- The Big K
- Ken Ramey
- Bruce Swaysze
- Tiger Tomasso
- The Grand Wizard

* * *

Wrestlers:

- Skandor Akbar
- The Andersons
- The Assassin
- Ox Baker

- The Hollywood Blonds
- Nick Bockwinkle
- Bruiser Brodie
- Killer Brooks
- Abdullah The Butcher
- Bulldog Brower
- Don Carson
- Donna Christenello
- Ripper Collins
- Dennis Condry
- Bobby Duncum
- The Executioners
- Ric Flair
- Mr. Fugi
- Terry Funk
- Goliath
- Black Gordman
- Luke Graham
- Superstar Graham
- Joe The Gypsy
- Stan Hansen
- Lord Al Hays
- Rip Hawk
- Phil Hickerson
- Big Bad John
- Don Leo Jonathan
- Tor Kamata
- Don Kent
- Ivan Koloff
- Killer Kowalski
- Killer Krupp

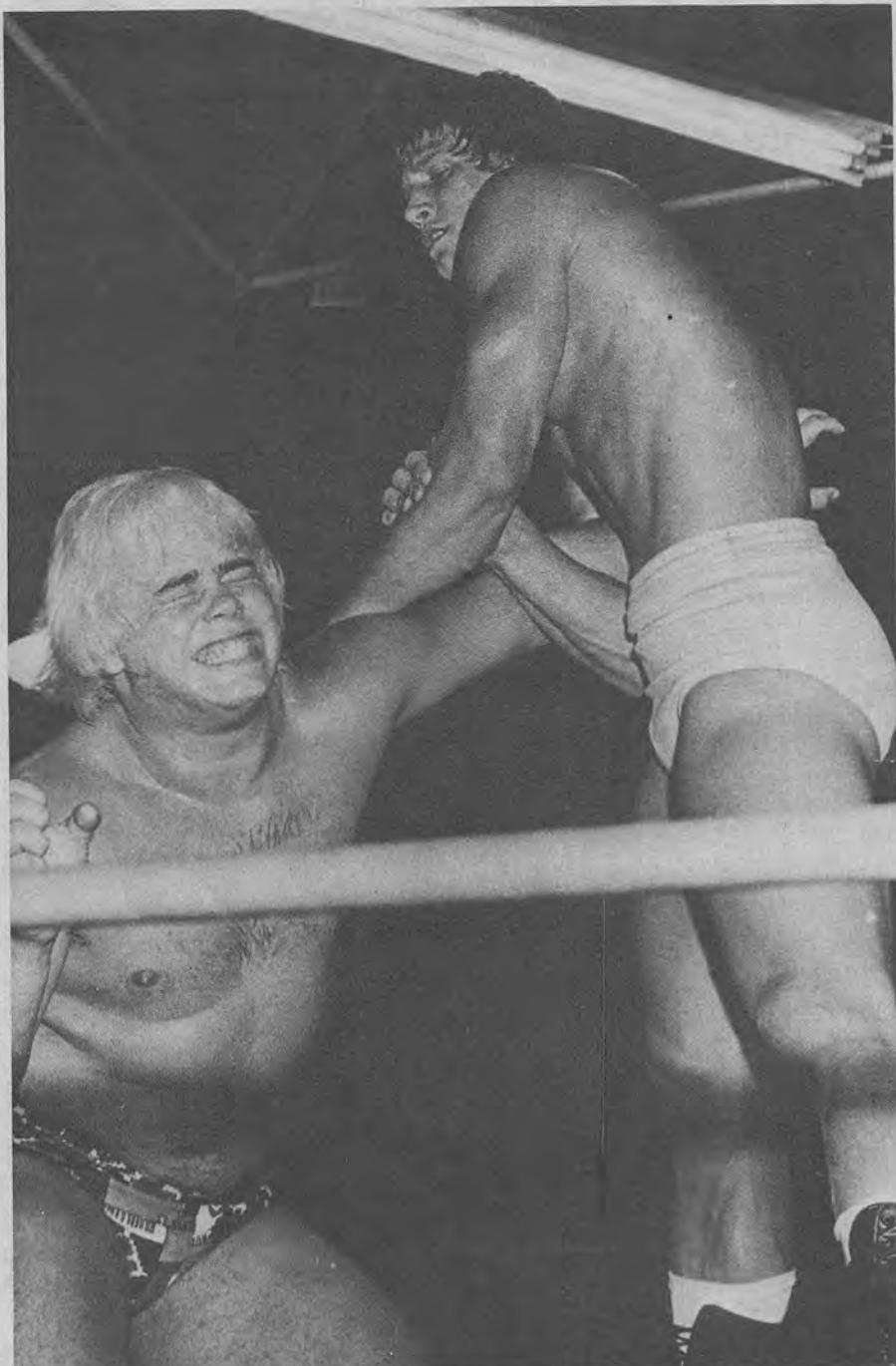
- Ernie Ladd
- Blackjack Lanza
- Jerry Lawler
- Boris Malenko
- Missouri Mauler
- Moondog Mayne
- Bugsy McGraw
- The Mongols
- Frank Monte
- Fabulous Moolah
- Angelo Mosca
- Blackjack Mulligan
- Don Muraco
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- Bob Orton Sr.
- Ken Patera
- Roddy Piper
- Harley Race
- Eric The Red
- Bob Roop
- The Sheik
- Dick Slater
- Pak Song
- The Spoiler
- Stan Stasiak
- George Steele
- Ray Stevens
- Mongolian Stomper
- Toru Tanaka
- Mad Dog Vachon
- Greg Valentine

- The Valiants
- Crusher Verdu
- Nikolai Volkoff
- Waldo Von Erich
- Kurt Von Hess
- Baron Von Raschke
- Karl Von Shotz
- Karl Von Stroheim
- Buddy Wolff

Write In Choices:
(Not Listed On Ballot)

KEVIN VON ERICH

(Continued from Page 15)



Proof of Kevin's power is revealed in the agonized face of his opponent. Foes who think they have nothing to fear from a man so young soon learn Von Erich is a grappler to be greatly respected.

And I wanted to be the best. I used to follow my father from arena to arena, learning everything I could about the sport. I knew more about the subtleties of this thing by age 10 than most people know in a lifetime. And I'm still learning.

"When I began my professional career, I realized a lot of people would think my father is making it easy for me, giving me the breaks other guys

work years to get. I'll admit he's helped me. There's nothing romantic about scuffling for a break. It doesn't build character, either. All it does is hurt. Only an idiot goes for more pain than is necessary. I used my father to buffer some of the tougher things about breaking into this sport. I'm not embarrassed to publicly thank him for it, either. He helped a lot.

"I also knew changing my name



Kevin delights in the attention of fans (above) though he does discourage women from becoming romantically involved with him.

would eliminate a lot of the flack I would receive about being the son of a famous father. But I'm proud of the name and I'm proud of my father. I wanted the world to know I'm proud. So I figured I'd absorb some flack to tell the world how proud I am.

"I also realized it means working harder. I have to overcome the natural feeling people have that the son is getting in because of his famous father. I have the same feeling when I see some other kid getting work in his father's field. So I always have to be good to keep the tongues from wagging—and protest my father's reputation. He made some very strong promises to make things easier for me."

When Kevin is asked about the young ladies who hover around the dressing room entrance, hoping to attract him, the handsome youth laughs and blushes.

"You gotta believe I enjoy it!" he says, laughing again. "Seriously though, I have to lead a very Spartan existence. I can't stay out very late or do the things I'd like. I haven't gone to a good party in about three years. My diet is strict and pretty boring. Before I get to know a woman well, I've got to travel to the next city. So in reality, I'm probably one of the 10 worst guys a woman could want!"

"The only thing I want is for people to never say Kevin Von Erich, Fritz Von Erich's son. I want them to refer to me as Kevin Von Erich, a good wrestler."

The fans are already calling Kevin Von Erich, Fritz Von Erich's son, a good wrestler. And those ladies, despite what he tells them, call him the stuff of which dreams are made. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 10)

Your story on Bruno did not really point out his preference for brawling in order to keep a firm grasp on his belt. The Terry Funk article did not mention that he is one of the most hated champions in the history of the sport. The Nick Bockwinkle article was just generally too kind to a man who has shown nothing but ruthlessness throughout most of his professional career.

Now I know you guys are trying to remain objective when you write, but I see no reason to be overly fair to men who don't deserve it.

WARREN DVORAK
Queenston, Ontario

NOTE THE DIFFERENCE

First of all, I would like to compliment you on the excellent job you did with Wrestling Yearbook #16. A special magazine just about the champions was long overdue, and you did the job admirably.

It was interesting to note the difference in the way the three men ascended to the thrones upon which



Bruno Sammartino smashes his knee into Bobby's Duncun's face in a tempestuous title bout.

they now sit. While Bockwinkle and Funk had rather difficult times in winning their titles, Bruno Sammartino won his title quite easily, both times!

In pointing this fact out, I am trying

to head off any discussion of who the greatest of the three champions would be, if they were ever matched against one another.

I just wonder how many people discovered this interesting fact. I think it is of great importance.

JOHN DeVILLA
New Stanton, Pa.

THE GREAT BOCKWINKLE

I am sick and tired of people putting down Nick Bockwinkle. After all, the man is AWA champion, and he rightly deserves that honor. I was very glad to see that your Wrestling Yearbook #16 did justice to Nick's greatness. It was heartening to see him treated as great as any of the other champions.

I don't care what others may say, I think Nick Bockwinkle is the greatest wrestler of all time. While I admit he may sometimes be forced to resort to tactics which might sicken some people, he still has the belt, and that is what counts.

Again let me say that I thought your coverage of his career and how he won his belt was excellent. Let's see more of it!

LAURIE O'CONNOR
Chicago, Ill. □

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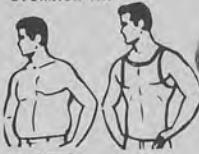
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NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

(Continued from Page 18)



Volkoff ruthlessly on the neck of Frank Williams (above and below), coming close to snapping it like a dry twig. This is typical of Volkoff techniques.



after the telegram arrived at its destination, Lou Albano held a press conference. At his side stood Volkoff. Though the wrestler doesn't speak English, he sensed what his manager was saying. Throughout the conference, Albano made asides to Volkoff in the grappler's native Russian. Each remark was greeted by laughter from both men.

"Gentlemen of the press," Albano said with a sneer, "the genius of Lou Albano once again breaks new ground. Every manager in the world first takes a wrestler and then develops a strategy for him. I myself once did this. Then I discovered a better way!"

"What I have done, for the first time in wrestling history, is develop strategies for a champion. I've developed brilliant maneuvers and fabulous holds. The man who can execute them will undoubtedly

(Continued on page 54)

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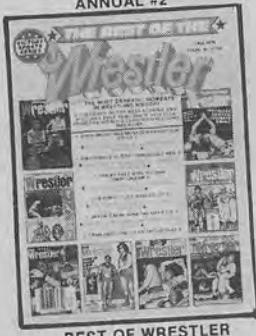
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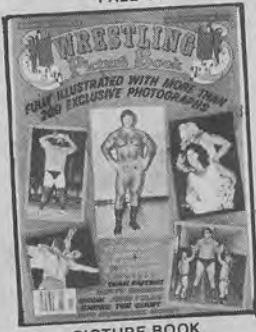
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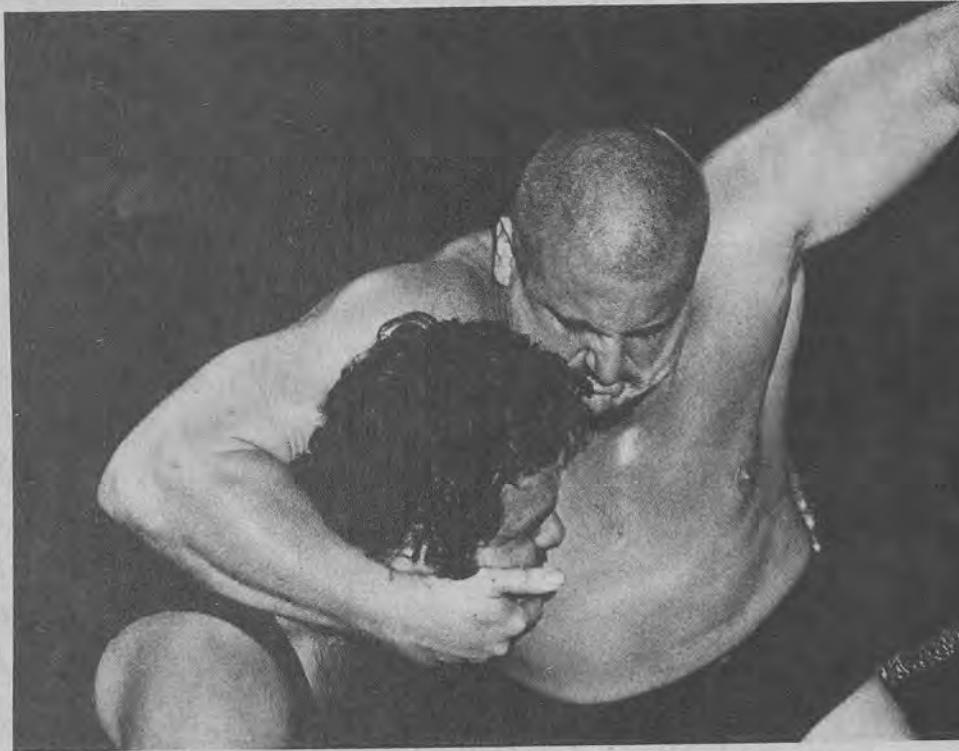
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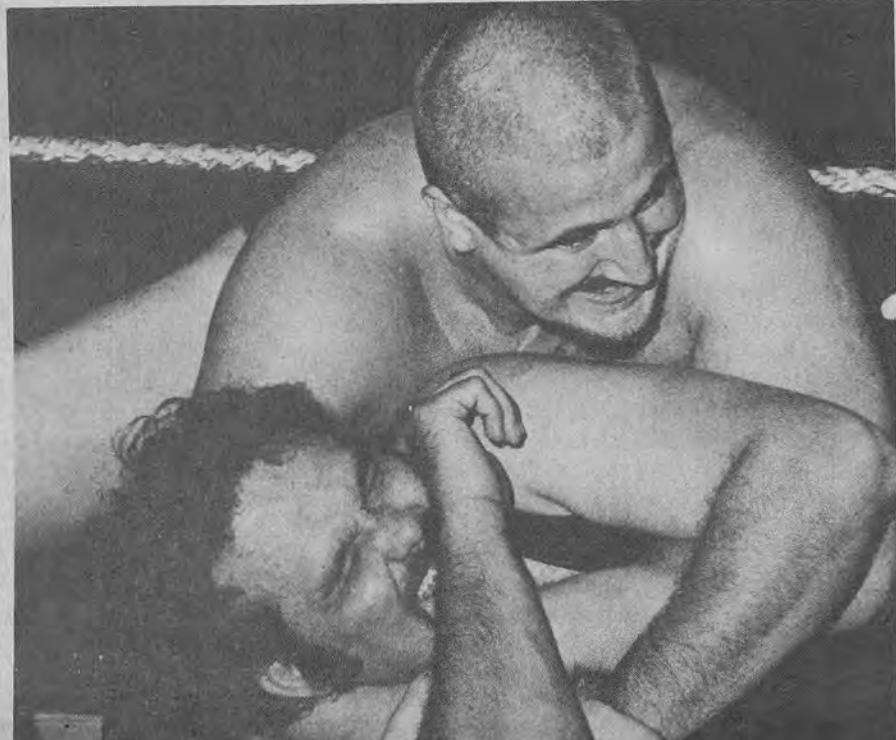
(Continued from Page 52)



become the greatest man in wrestling."

"When I developed these revolutionary strategies, I didn't have anyone in mind. I just went for perfection. Then I started searching for the man who can best execute my plan.

"I must have examined the films of 500 wrestlers. No one escaped my attention. In the end, after months of research, I realized there was only one man for me. Gentlemen, he stands next to me



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Albano is known for his outrageous boasts, but many of them come true. He may have discovered some secret that could make Volkoff invincible. Everyone agrees Nikolai possesses the skills to be great and the cruelty to be terrifying. Those who love wrestling shudder at the prospect Albano may make Volkoff reach his horrifying potential. If anyone can do it, Albano can.

The entire wrestling community was in attendance for Volkoff's first match. They were scared of what they might see; even more scared of missing it. They had to know what to expect.

If before the match they were scared, afterwards they were confused and anxious. Volkoff devastated an opponent with subtle tactics and sheer power. Many were unable to tell just how he did it; the maneuvers were that subtle.

The only way to figure out these new maneuvers would be to see the films of the match over and over again. Volkoff was now a great wrestler.

No intelligent wrestler can help but be worried by the teaming of Albano and Volkoff. They have already proven an extraordinary combination. Only the future can tell what else they will prove. □

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Jose Lothario and Gary Hart

(Continued from Page 21)



After the match, Hart raises Lothario's arm in victory. It is a strange sight to see these two men, so different in every way, allied together successfully. One must wonder how long this duo can remain together before ending in bitter, ugly arguments.

revolution in wrestling. Lothario and I will turn this sport on its ear! May is finished, Dillon is through. We are an unbeatable team, combining the best this sport can offer. Many people were amazed when we teamed together. Well, they're going to be more amazed when we see what happens in the arena."

Hart didn't lie. It was an incredible match. If it didn't end the careers of Moondog and Dillon, it certainly didn't do them any good. Lothario was at his best, somehow retaining his

commitment to scientific wrestling while teaming with Hart. As for the manager, he chafed under the legal grappling style of Lothario but didn't interfere. You could see Hart desperately wanting to break the rules but restraining himself.

As for Dillon and Mayne, they didn't know what to expect. The entire match, both men were off balance and confused. Mayne was more cautious than he's ever been, not wanting to leave himself open for some painful surprises. Dillon stayed back, not sure



Above: In Florida, Hart is the hated foe of men like Wahoo McDaniel. Wahoo is an admirer of Lothario. Below: Eddie and Mike Graham punish Hart for attempting to interfere in a brawling tag team encounter.



he wanted to tangle with Hart before he knew what was going on.

Finally, Lothario had Mayne in real trouble. Dillon had to interfere or forfeit the match. Jim leaped into the ring and Hart leaped after him. Four mighty swings from Hart's cane and Dillon spilled over the ropes. Mayne took one look at the fallen manager and fled back to his dressing room.

An hour later, Dillon talked to the press. He was still wobbly from the beating but too angry to be silenced.

"I know what's going on now!" he screamed. "They got the best of us once. This is the last time they ever do that again! From now on, it's war. And the war won't be over until they're destroyed!"

Dillon and Mayne vs. Lothario and Hart. Two men will enjoy the greatest victories of their careers. Two men will be finished forever. Survival will be for the fittest. There can be no second best.

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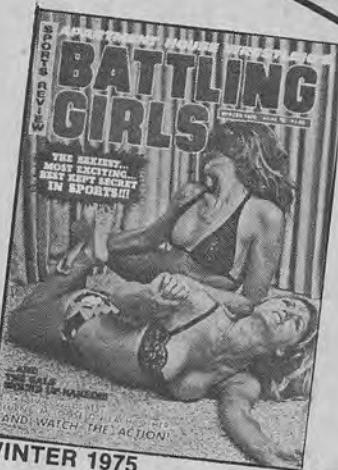
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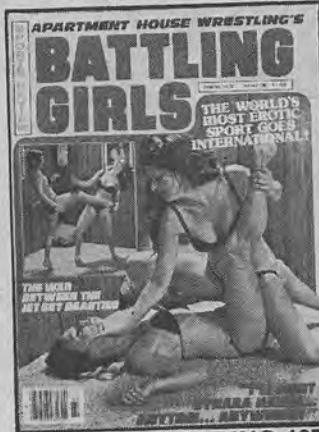
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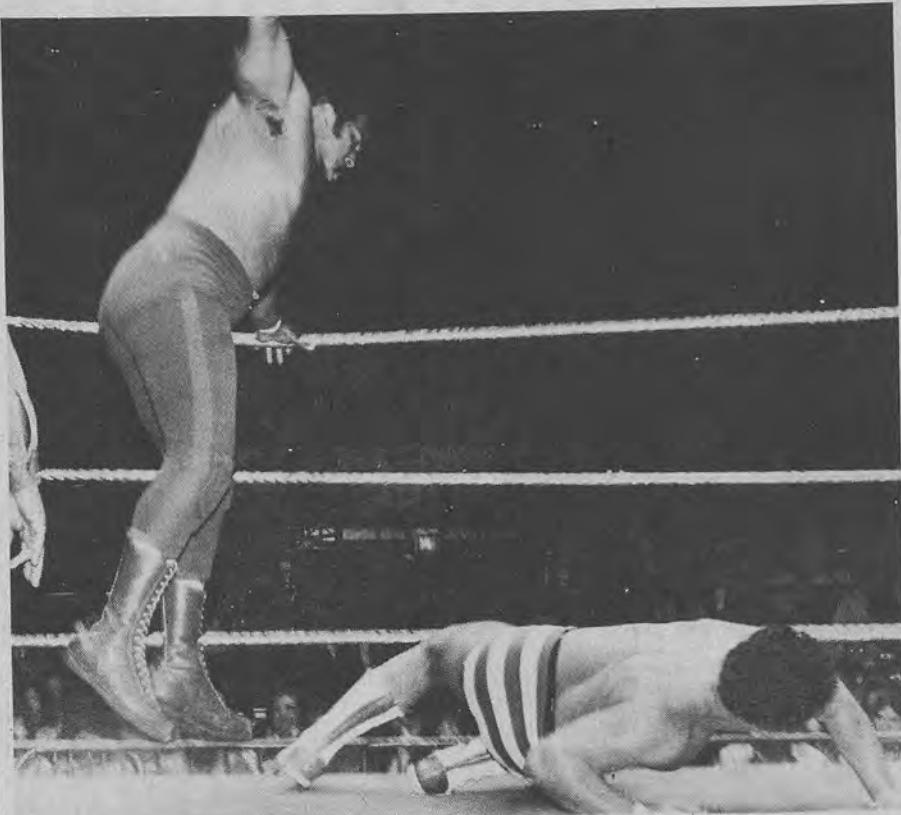
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WRESTLE

(Continued from Page 25)



Jose makes John's other trick, planned only if the first didn't work out, go up in smoke. As John dives off the top rope, hoping to kneedrop Jose, the sly Jose moves out of the way (above) and John crashes on his knee! Jose whips Rodz across the ring (below).



trying to show everyone he's better than I am. But we all know he's not.

"That guy was trying to defeat me within the 20 minute time limit. And I was not going to let him. So, when I saw that the referee was on his side, I decided to sit down and kill time. That's all. I don't think I was wrong. No, not at all."

John's plan didn't work out all too well though. Gonzales, anxious to win every match he can, grabbed Johnny by the legs and then flipped him over

his body. Rodz crashed to the mat with a resounding thud. From then on, it was Gonzales all the way. Jose foiled Johnny's plan.

So, out of his sly head, Rodz thought he'd try another time killing trick. This time he ran to the corner turnbuckles and perched himself there. Jose charged toward him. Johnny put out his foot and Jose caught it right on the chin. He fell to the mat and it appeared he was unconscious.

"Great!" Rodz exclaimed at the top of his lungs. "You're finished Gonzales!"

Rodz stood and perched himself, this time on the top turnbuckle, obviously preparing to kneedrop Jose.

Well, his plan worked for about a tenth of a second. John took the leap. It was then that Jose let Johnny know he was playing possum.

You guessed it. Jose rolled out of the way. CRASH! That was followed by a very loud and painful "Owwwww!"



Johnny's sent reeling as Gonzales hits him with a series of judo chops. Rodz feels Jose's tactics were all illegal and uncalled for.

Rodz grabbed his knees and tried to ease the pain he was feeling. But Jose didn't let him. He followed up by pulling John up to his feet, whipping him across the ring and drop-kicking him three times.

Next, Jose went in for the kill. A series of spectacular aerial moves saw the Puerto Rican favorite walk all over Johnny and end Rodz' pain by letting him go back to the dressing room for first aid. But Rodz walked back a beaten man.

Jose accepted the plaudits of the crowd graciously. He was happy. The young man was pleased with his match and now he moved one step closer to his dream, a possible shot at the world title.

"Men like Rodz are trying to keep me from getting to the title," Jose explained. "But I plan to thwart their plans and go on to become the second Puerto Rican in history to win the title. Just like Pedro Morales, I'll make my people proud of me."

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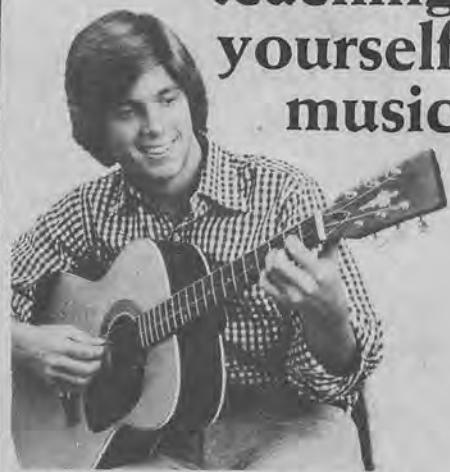
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(Continued from Page 31)



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Blassie is being helped with his national image as he goes on a TV show with Muhammad Ali (above). Freddie checks out the first demonstration record. "It is simply great!" he brags (below).



and everything else, I make great records. I'm better than anyone has ever been! I make Sinatra look sick, the Beatles boring, and Streisand ridiculous. Blassie is best! Blassie is best!

Somehow, the musicians put up with Blassie. His acquaintances aren't being paid, so they leave whenever Blassie puts his record on at home. Freddie almost killed someone who said, "I'm sure it'll sound all right once the stereo is fixed." The finest system in the world couldn't make Blassie sound acceptable. Yet, he's still making records.

It must be admitted that there's a strange fascination with Blassie's music. It's ugliness at its most repulsive, proud of its most revolting qualities. One can hate it

and still be drawn to it, much like Blassie himself.

Even music critics are being drawn into the Blassie camp. Bob Minsenberger, respected observer for many top music journals, has written a lengthy review of Blassie's singing, most of it complementary.

"Its crudeness is its beauty," Minsenberger states, "an open wound in the dark side of humanity. The quality is unintentional. Blassie doesn't know what he's doing. In attempting to make a hit record, he reveals all the barren greed and fame lust which replaces artistic integrity in this day and age. It is furiously ugly music but one that must be heard."

Other critics hear it in a different way. One of the more avant-garde intellects, Warren Heritage, sees it as a revolution.

"It is the perfect vision of awfulness" Heritage avers, "a journey through the abysmal. Only a genius, possessed by demons grandly terrifying, could conceive of so monumental an accomplishment. He gives the listener nothing but rage, recklessly imagined and wildly executed. Its power is undeniable. While one is in awe, there is also the prayer this will be the last testament of a defiled genius."

Perhaps the chorus of one of Blassie's songs best explains the man:

Worship the man named Blassie
As you worship the god of fear!
Know when you're weak and
defenseless,
Blassie, the eagle, is near!

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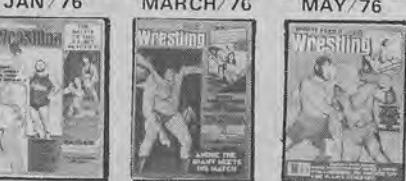
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ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from Page 36)



Above: Andre doesn't even pretend to be wrestling as he punches a Vigilante in the head. Below left: Bill Miller is lifted by his throat high into the air, risking damage to his larynx and windpipe; Andre doesn't care. Below right: Andre stomps on the head of senseless Billy Graham, an inexcusably cruel maneuver.



pleasure, is now an ordeal. He evades questions and often refuses to answer the mildest queries.

There is one theory Andre has yet to deny; he refuses to even discuss it. It involves his publicized bid to take a championship.

Andre is now close to a title shot in all three major areas. He could be scared so close to the realization of his dream. He may be afraid of failure or afraid of success.

If Andre fails to win a major title in the near future, the entire world will know it. He has promised his fans a

championship belt. Breaking his promise will break their hearts. If it leads to them deserting him, it would destroy the sensitive giant.

Success could be equally destructive. Instead of being able to wander free throughout the world, Andre would be committed to wrestle in a single area for as long as he's champion. Gone is his freedom, his ability to pick and choose his future. Some see the title as an honor. Andre may see it as a prison.

Finding himself in a position he can't tolerate or escape, Andre may be

taking his frustration out in the arena. The once model of integrity is now a ruthless grappler (though always against rulebreakers). Fans and promoters are shocked; other wrestlers enraged.

At first, most wrestlers were willing to forgive him, figuring everyone has problems and no one's perfect. However, as it gets worse and worse, anger replaces understanding. Wrestlers, like all professional athletes, don't expect private lives to interfere with business. They're not psychiatrists, interested in solving the problem. They're professionals, concerned with doing the best job possible. When someone continually undermines success, they're an unforgiving group.

Andre has become bitter over what he sees as a desertion of his friends when he needs them most. Though he won't admit the depth of his anguish, it's plain every time he walks into a dressing room.

Once Andre walked through the doors like a king being greeted by his beloved knights. Today, he slinks in, trying to make his gargantuan body invisible. The tension pollutes the air, causing nervous coughing and gooseflesh. No one says anything; no one has to. Their eyes tell volumes.

Late one night, when the dressing room was deserted, Andre sat in a corner. His huge body slumped wearily, its power drained by sorrow. Anger had been spent in combat, an ugly brutal combat. He could take no pride in the evening's slaughter.

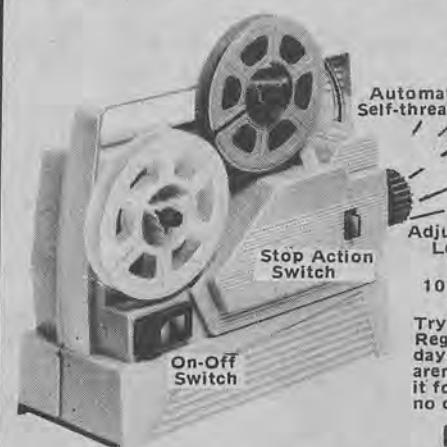
"I don't care what people say," he claimed, though his face gave lie to his words. "I don't have to answer to anyone. I'm a successful athlete, doing what I want when I want. If my style has changed a little, I'm doing things differently, so what? I'm what I am, take it or leave it."

"I don't have to explain myself, answer for what I do. I don't have to sit still for clowns analyzing me. I don't have to say whether or not every stupid theory about me is right. All I have to do is concentrate on becoming a champion. That's all that counts!"

"Print whatever you want to about why I'm wrestling a little rougher. I won't talk about it and I don't care what you say. Fill your pages with stupid theories, say I'm this or that. Wait. I'll tell you what I am. I'm very, very tired."

Andre the Giant is also very, very confused. And he is very, very dangerous . . . to others, and to himself. □

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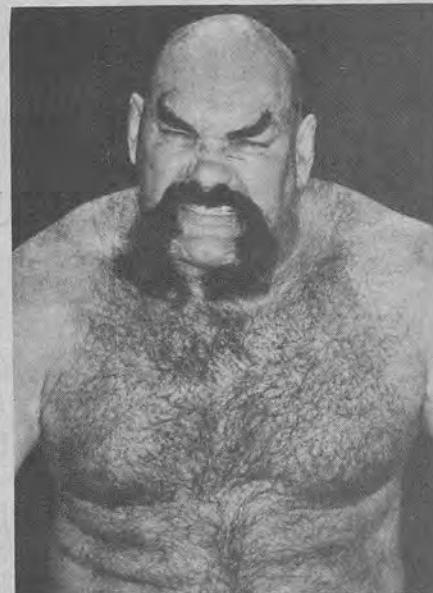
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YOU DECIDE

(Continued from Page 37)

get a list free from personality wars. The only consideration will be what the man does in the ring, not at contract negotiations. The results, to be shown to all promoters, will also be free of professional jealousies. Fans only care about a man's grappling record.



Before you get to the ballot, there is a section on those we consider most likely to be banned. There are many more names on the ballot and no one has to vote for only those profiled. The studies are *not* to be thought of as politicking on our part to get these men banned; they are meant to instruct, not influence.

No ballot can contain more than five names checked off. If you vote for any more than five men to be banned, your ballot will be disqualified. *There will be no exceptions!* Five names are all you may pick, therefore choose the five carefully. Of course, you may choose less than five. There is room on the ballot for write-in choices.

Please keep in mind the seriousness of this ballot. Men's careers are literally at stake. Remember, being banned means a man's livelihood is taken away from him, years of work and hardship down the drain. It is the crudest, most final punishment an athlete can suffer. This ballot may have the power of life and death; use it sparingly and well. Temper your justice with mercy.



The results of the poll will be announced in a future issue of this magazine. The promoters will get reports of the poll at the same time. We do not know what they will do with the results, but all have promised to take some kind of action. It is the first time the promoters have attempted this.

Consider this ballot carefully. We cannot stress the importance of this survey enough. Men's careers are on the line. The fate of the entire sport may also be altered irrevocably by what you—the fan—do with your voice. □

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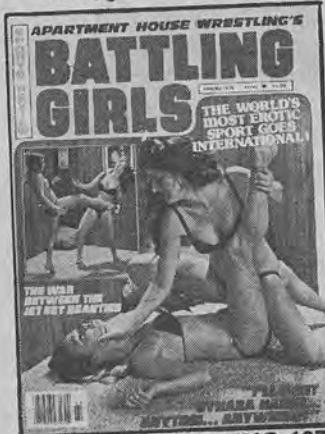
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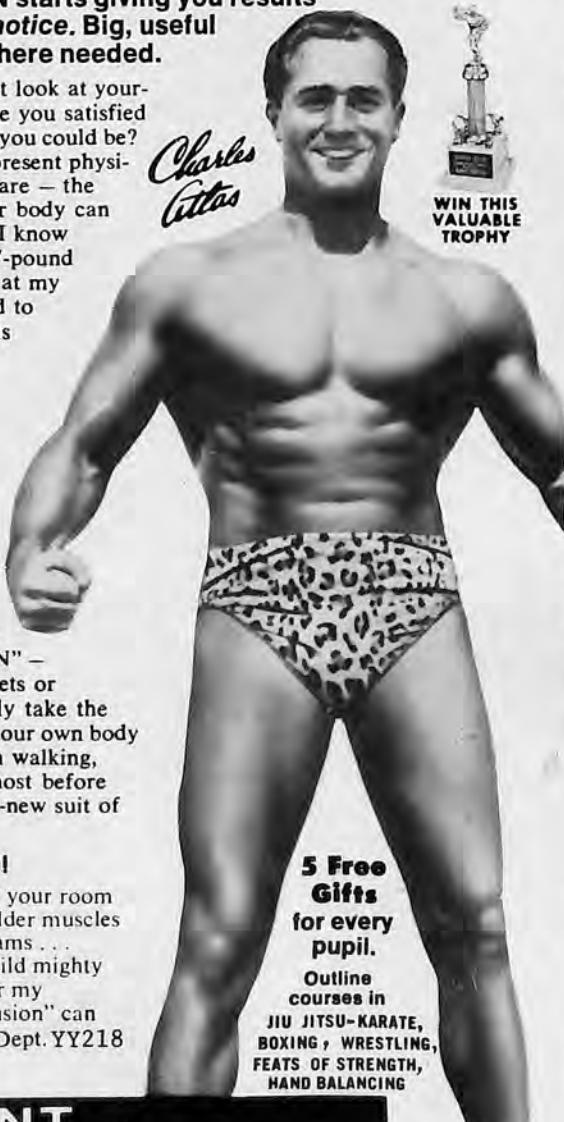
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